



## SADDLE UP

Frank wins cycle clubman trophy at 78



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## BANJO DAN

Plucky young rising star of folk scene



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## Most of arrests at demo were anti-EDL

MOST of the people arrested after an English Defence League march in Dudley were counter protesters, it has emerged.

Police said five out of the 29 people arrested were supporters of the far-right EDL. But the rest were counter protesters, including supporters of the group Unite Against Fascism.

Officers arrested the people for breaching the peace during the protests on February 7 in the town centre.

Most were released without charge.

Around 50 members of Unite Against Fascism held a counter-protest in Castle Street while EDL protesters gathered outside the council house on Priory Road after marching from King Street.

The breakdown on the arrests was confirmed by West Midlands Police following a Freedom of Information request.

The force drafted in hundreds of extra officers from as far away as Wales to cover the demonstrations. Policing the event cost taxpayers £321,000.

Hundreds of officers from across the country were called in as more than 600 members of the far right organisation descended on the town.

Some 70 shops closed for the day.

## School switch to academy

A WOLLASTON school has become an academy in a move which will see it form closer ties with a college in the town.

Ridgewood High School has become a member of the newly formed King Edward's Stourbridge Academy Trust. Gaining academy status means the school, in Park Road West, becomes independent of the local authority.

Head Clive Nutting said he was looking forward to working closely with King Edward VI College.

# CALL FOR MORE NURSERY PLACES

**MORE nursery places for children with special needs should be created in Dudley, the borough's education chief says, as a fresh consultation with parents got under way.**

Councillor Tim Crumpton has pledged to review the services on offer to families.

It comes after the council made a U-turn on plans to scrap free transport to nurseries following a petition signed by more than 800 people.

Councillor Crumpton said the consultation had highlighted the need to look at how services could be improved, as he believed there was a shortage of nursery places in the borough.

"We are going to look at the wider picture," he said. "We need extra places and some of the children need help with transport, so we are going to look at what changes or improvements we need to make."

"I am going to meet a group of parents to discuss the outcomes of the first consultation and discuss what we are going to do next."

Councillor Crumpton said he was keen to get as many views as possible.

### Value

"The consultation has offered tremendous value on many levels and has highlighted to everyone the undoubted quality of our early years services."

"It has raised a tough debate around how we deliver education for children with additional needs."

"We will now be gathering the information from the consultation before sitting down to consult further with colleagues in the council's scrutiny committee and

By Heather Large

with parents to see how we can best move forward. We made it clear from the outset that no child would be denied access to these nurseries because of money and that we would continue to provide support where it is needed.

"We know we need to look at the service in the wider context and this may involve re-modelling it to ensure everyone has access to these much-valued services," he added.

Dudley Council originally proposed the transport service for children attending specialist nurseries be cut as part of its budget proposals for 2015/16.

But the controversial move was withdrawn following consultations with parents and the tabling of an amendment by the Conservative group at a full council meeting last week.

The controlling Labour group accepted the amendment and it was passed by councillors.

Parents attending the full council meeting cheered as they heard the amendment had been supported.

The authority currently pays for dozens of children with additional needs to travel to specialist nurseries in the borough but says it is not legally required to do so.

## Petition calls for tougher speed limit



Slow down! Speed limit campaigners Natasha Millward, Ian Barton, Bill Cody and Councillor Derrick Hemingsley

A PETITION has been launched by campaigners urging speed limits to be made tougher outside schools in Wordsley.

Residents and councillors in the town have been leading a speed watch campaign warning motorists to slow down.

More than 100 people have signed the petition with copies given to schools and nurseries in the area.

Campaigners want to see limits reduced from 30mph to 20mph and will table their petition to Dudley Council.

Ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley says campaigners want a per-

manent solution to cutting speeds outside Belle Vue Primary School, off Lawnswood Road.

Councillor Hemingsley worked with police community support officers to set up the speed watch project.

### Warned

Dozens of drivers have been warned about breaking limits on the mainly residential streets.

Councillor Hemingsley added: "I am now actively campaigning for a reduction of the speed limit outside the Belle Vue Primary School from 30mph to 20mph."

## Petition move to save King Arthur pub

A PETITION has been launched against plans to build a new supermarket on the site of a landmark pub in Dudley.

Aldi has lodged proposals to demolish The King Arthur, beside the Birmingham New Road to make way for the store.

But West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge is now calling on council bosses to reject the scheme and for the building to be saved from the bulldozer.

Councillors refused Aldi permission to demolish the pub in September, telling bosses they needed detailed proposals.

The supermarket has now produced detailed documents, saying the 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.

Mr Etheridge, who represents Sedgley on Dudley Council, claimed the store would generate traffic on the already congested Priory Road which sees traffic often queuing as far as The Broadway at peak times.

He added: "I also fear the creation of an Aldi on this site would severely impact on the trade of nearby small retailers in Priory Road."

"The development would also see the loss of trees and would throw local roads into greater traffic-choked chaos."

■ Plan revived — page 2

## £2.6m project starts at park

WORK will begin to create a cafe and restore historic gates at a landmark Stourbridge park by the end of the month.

It is part of a £2.6 million revamp of Mary Stevens Park. Other work includes the creation of a games area and netball court.

Updating councillors on the progress of the project, chief executive Sarah Norman said work was due to start soon on repairs to the main gates and on the new cafe in former offices.

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# Aldi revive plans for landmark pub site

ALDI has revived plans to build a new supermarket at the site of a landmark pub in Dudley.  
The King Arthur, beside the Birmingham New Road, has been empty for three years and was boarded up after repeated vandal and arson attacks.  
Councillors refused Aldi permission to demolish the pub in September, telling bosses they needed

detailed proposals. The supermarket has now produced detailed documents, saying the 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.  
Vehicles would access the shop from Priory Road with the Birmingham New Road entrance closed off.  
Previous plans to turn the pub into a hotel failed to materialise and there has been growing concern the

abandoned building is becoming an eyesore.  
Councillor Ken Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward, said the Aldi plan was in the best interests of the community.  
"It was going to be a hotel or flats but it never happened," he said.  
"There has been concerns about fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and gypsies going on there. The only

concern with the plan is traffic, that is the only possible problem I see."  
Councillor Finch added he would be sad to see the pub go but that its potential demolition was a 'fact of life'.  
"This is the best thing we can expect to tidy the area up and in that area there is no big supermarket to serve the estates around there without going into Dudley town centre."

# Concern grows over homeless on streets

**MORE than 50 people are sleeping rough on streets in the West Midlands – including six in Dudley — sparking calls for more to be done to tackle the issue.**

It comes as the number of homeless people in England rises by 14 per cent. The figure of 52 for rough sleepers in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham is up by one on the year before.

## RSPCA want help to find cruel killer

A CAT was found hanged from a window frame on a derelict snooker club in Pensnett.

The grim discovery was made by a member of the public who alerted RSPCA inspectors to the building in High Oak, Pensnett.

A cord noose had been tied around the neck of the ginger cat and then around the window frame.

RSPCA inspector Vicki Taylor said: "There were scratch marks on the wall and the cat's claws were worn down and his pads were bloody so he would have been struggling to free himself for some time."

"You just can't imagine the pain and distress this poor animal went through before he died."

### Ordeal

She added: "We need to find those who did this as if they are capable of subjecting an animal to such an ordeal it is worrying to think what else they might do."

The cat was found at about 2pm on Friday, February 27, but it is believed he may have been there for more than 24 hours.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018.

Statistics for autumn last year are intended to give a 'snapshot' of how many rough sleepers would be found on any one night.

The study by the Department for Communities and Local Government found that 2,744 people slept rough in England in autumn 2014, an increase of 14 per cent from 2,414 in 2013.

The number of people sleeping rough across the country has increased year-on-year over the last five years and by 55 per cent since 2010.

### Doorways

High streets in Dudley and Bearwood are being used with homeless people squeezing into shop doorways or under canopies.

There are seven people sleeping rough in Wolverhampton on any given night, compared to six in 2013. There were six in Dudley—the same as the previous year — five in Walsall, which is three fewer than 2013, and two in Sandwell, which is down from three. In Birmingham there are 20, up from 14 the year before.

Chief executive Howard Sinclair, of Charity St Mungo's Broadway, which helps 2,500 homeless people across England, said: "We are extremely concerned that yet again we are seeing a rise in the levels of rough sleeping."

"This is a problem that we cannot ignore and needs to be a top priority for the next Government."

## Rarely seen portraits displayed



Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin next to Stourbridge artist Brian Fletcher's self portrait

THE great and good of Dudley's past will be in the spotlight in a new exhibition spanning 200 years Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

More than 50 portraits ranging from explorer Sir John Franklin to Mary Stevens, wife of one of Stourbridge's greatest benefactors, will be on display in Face to Face, which opened at the attraction in St James's Road this week.

Some of the paintings have never been on public show while others are seldom seen

on display. Famous pieces in the collection include an oil painting of Mr and Mrs Bamfylde by JJ Zoffany, the renowned 18th century portraitist, as well as a lithograph of a dancer by Henri Matisse.

Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin said: "There are paintings of the great and good of Dudley, with some recognisable names and others which are now only familiar to local historians."

The exhibition runs until June 27 and admission is free.

# Songsters sing with Bromley children

A POPULAR male voice choir will be taking to the stage for their latest concert in Dudley accompanied by primary school pupils.

The Gentlemen Songsters, based in Kingswinford, are preparing for the show to take place on Saturday, March 21.

It will be held at St Mark's Church, in Vicarage Lane, off Pensnett High Street starting at 7.30pm.

The choir will be joined by pupils from Bromley Pensnett Primary School for the show. Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased from Sandra Parsons at church or by calling (01384) 839251.

### Charities

The Gentlemen Songsters regular fundraising concerts saw them bring in £4,000 for the Mayor of Dudley's charities this year. Money will be split between Guide Dogs and Action Heart charities.

The choir raised the money with concerts at Dudley Town Hall and Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

The choir, which won the Mayor's Award at the Mayor's Civic Awards in 2013, also presented a £2,500 cheque to the Royal British Legion at a civic reception in the Mayor's parlour earlier this year.

## Health checks at village pub

A HEALTH check event will be held at a village pub to raise awareness of strokes.

Kinver Rotary Club has organised the blood pressure monitoring event, from 10am until 4pm, in a private room at the White Harte pub on April 18 as part of the national Stroke Awareness Day.

Anybody found to have dangerously high or low levels will be urged to consult a doctor.

Rotarian Chris Elcock, organising the project, said: "It will take no more than a minute. That minute could save their life."

## Four nations ale

BEER from all four home nations will be offered at a real ale festival to mark the final weekend of the Six Nations Rugby Union tournament. Green Duck Beer Company holds its spring beer festival at its Badelynge Bar, Rufford Road, Stourbridge, from March 19 to 21.

# DIESEL NEEDS YOU...!!!



The gorgeous Diesel is a ten year old big softie, that is desperately waiting for someone to love him, his previous human Mom passed away, and left him alone in the house, with a neighbour popping in to feed him. He was heart broken and really sad to be alone, as Diesel loves us humans, (in fact he does think he is human, he loves to sleep on a 'proper bed' - not one of those silly cat beds!!!) Not keen on other cats, dogs or children.  
He would be an ideal cat for a mature couple, single retired person...! He loves to have a little wander outside, but also loves sitting by the fire/radiator.

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**Town hall repair work on schedule**

REPAIR work at Dudley Town Hall is on track to finish by the end of the month.

Loose plaster on the ceiling forced the venue to close in December with some shows being cancelled, moved or postponed. Concerts and performances needed to be re-arranged or moved to alternative venues.

Wednesday evening dances, run by Fiona Bennett, have been moved to Dudley College.

Officials said work was progressing well and due to be completed on schedule.

**Lions roar in to help responders**

A LIONS club has selected the Black Country First Responders as its charity of the year.

Dudley Lions Club will be donating money to the organisation, volunteers who attend emergencies and are called out if they can reach a scene more quickly than the ambulance service. They receive no funding from the NHS or Government.

Responders usually cover an area within seven minutes of their home, backed by ambulance crews.

**Talk on veteran of Light Brigade**

THE life of a Black Country alderman who was a veteran of the Crimean War will be in the spotlight at a coffee morning on March 27.

A talk on John Kilvert will take place at Wednesday Museum and Art Gallery at 11am, admission £2.

Alderman Kilvert was the Mayor of Wednesbury in 1905 and took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade.

**Canal crafty to help Comic Relief**

VISITORS to Dudley canal tunnel can make masks to raise money by taking part in craft activities in support of Comic Relief on Sunday.

Children can take part in the event organised by Dudley Canal Trust from 11.30am to 1.30pm. Call 0121 557 6265 or email info@dudleycanaltrust.org.uk to book.

**Beer lovers meet**

THE Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is holding its annual general meeting in the upstairs room at The Court House pub in New Street, Dudley, on March 30 at 8pm.

# More jobs are under scrutiny for savings

A CONSULTATION on the second phase of a review to cut £1 million from Dudley Council's management budget will begin this month.

The council has already slashed the number of director and assistant director posts from 22 to 11 as it battles to find up to £57m of savings within three years.

Bosses will now look at the next tier down with heads of service being reviewed.

A consultation process is due to start this month.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council said: "Once complete, the major restructure currently underway in Dudley is still on track to reduce senior management costs by £1m.

**Redundancy**

"This is not just a one-off saving; it will be on-going, year on year.

"In the first year there will be redundancy and pension costs to take into consideration.

"However, looking to the future, the senior management restructure in Dudley is still on track to save this authority £1m each and every year."

# Stabbing — teen in court

A TEENAGER will appear in Wolverhampton Crown Court accused of attempted murder after a man was stabbed on his doorstep in Dudley.

The 17-year-old youth was arrested at an address in Netherton on February 24. A 65-year-old man was attacked just before 6.15pm on the same day in Owen Street, Kates Hill, suffering serious stab wounds to his head, shoulder, chest and back.

At a hearing on Thursday it was agreed that the case will be heard in Wolverhampton on March 20.

**Bostin' night out**

A BOSTIN' night is in store with Black Country Gaz and comedienne Marleen. Big Up the Black Country features singing, comedy and even bellydancing at the Station Hotel, Castle Hill, on April 10. Tickets £10 include faggots and peas. Call 07866 476633.

# Second chance because of 'disruptive lifestyle'

A TEENAGER from Dudley who took part in a street robbery has been given another chance to avoid being put behind bars after breaching her suspended jail sentence by failing to turn up for a probation appointment.

Wolverhampton Crown Court sitting at the city's magistrates court heard that Stacey Nance was part of a group who stole a mobile phone in an attack where the victim was punched and kicked.

She was given an 18 months jail sentence

suspended for two years for robbery. She was also given a curfew with supervision when she was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court in December.

**Structure**

But Nance admitted breaching the order on January 27 after she failed to attend a probation appointment.

She was then arrested and kept in custody.

Mrs Blondel Thompson, defending bar-

rist, told the hearing at Wolverhampton: "All told she has missed many appointments and the probation report indicates that this was due to her life lacking structure. She also lacks self-esteem.

"They think they can help her by putting her on a short skills course," added Mrs Thompson.

Sentencing judge Mr Recorder Ciaran Rankin agreed to follow the recommendation and he ordered Nance, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, to attend the Mariposa Pro-

ject for 20 days to help her overcome her 'disruptive lifestyle'. She must also observe a curfew from 8pm to 6am for one month.

"You were extremely fortunate to get a suspended sentence in the first place," said the judge.

"Having being given a fresh opportunity you almost immediately failed to comply with the supervision order."

He added that his decision not to trigger the jail term was due to her age and the fact that she had spent time in custody.

# NHS give GPs more power over £400m health budget

GENERAL practitioners in Dudley have been handed more power to manage the borough's £400 million health care budget.

They will work with NHS England to decide how the money is spent and buy patient services such as hospital care and physiotherapy.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been given the green light to take over responsibility for co-commissioning the majority of GP services from next month. It is among some of the first organisations in the country to be given the go-ahead by NHS England.

Doctors will be more involved in planning developments and making improvements to existing services. They have already introduced longer opening hours at surgeries on Saturday mornings and preparations are under way for a new urgent care centre to open at Russells Hall Hospital next month.

**Pressure**

The new centre has been designed to reduce pressure on the under-pressure A&E and will replace the walk-in centre at Holly Hall. It will be open 24/7 and patients will be able to make appointments or just turn up. Clinical executive Dr Jas Rathore said taking on more responsibility would enable Dudley CCG to make improvements.

"When we say 'co-commissioning' we mean taking joint responsibility with

By Heather Large

NHS England for commissioning, planning, developing, delivering, monitoring and managing the budget for GP services across Dudley," he said.

"We know our area, we know where GP services are most in need of improvement, we know the practices which are providing an outstanding service and can help to lead by example."

"Taking on a co-commissioning role will help us to make sure that our knowledge helps to shape future developments and protect the range of services."

"It also helps us to ensure that there remains a local focus on primary care in Dudley, supporting colleagues in general practice to get the best services for local people," he added.

Chairman of Dudley CCG Dr David Hegarty said: "Building better GP services and wrapping improved community health care around those GP services is a key part of our vision."

# Museum seeks volunteers

THE Black Country Living Museum is looking for more volunteers to join its ranks of re-enactors.

The museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, also needs people to help behind the scenes at its 26-acre site.

The museum has a number of volunteer groups including the Black Country Motor Company maintaining the collection of vintage vehicles. See the website bclm.com/volunteer or call 0121 557 9643.



One of the firm's 'spidermen', Ryan Cook, 25, from Stourbridge, at the cathedral

# In spired to scale heights at cathedral

A GROUP of self-confessed 'spidermen' were prepared to scale great heights to help rid Lichfield Cathedral of a problem with birds droppings.

A team from Stourbridge firm Safer Access Solutions scaled the inside of the 35 metre high spire to install a mesh to prevent pigeons from getting in and fouling the historic building.

The four strong group answered a call from the cathedral, which wants to open an existing viewing gallery on the outside of the cathedral roof to the public by Easter, but had not been able to do so until now because to get access would have meant passing through the church tower covered in bird mess.

Safer Access Solutions boss Gary Cook said the birds had got in through slats in the roof of the church but the mesh would prevent them in future.

His company used ropes attached to bolts to scale the heights. The other three employees then followed him to the top and abseiled back down again after installing the mesh.

"We are basically spidermen — we climb to the top of high buildings to do jobs," he said.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



NHS place-names. A friend just back from hospital describes the daily delight of being wheeled between the Catheter Suite and the Discharge Lounge.

IN darker vein, the government's Animal & Plant Agency is advertising a couple of jobs, one for a disease-containment manager, the other for a lab technician. A sharp-eyed reader spotted the adverts in a trade journal under the cheerful heading: "Post Mortem Opportunities – Weybridge."

DID you catch the spokesman for Kew Gardens on the radio saying the only way to overcome its cash problems was to "grow our income"? Plant some for me.

BEFORE long, according to estimates this week, Britain will spend more on overseas aid than on its own defence. There is a name for policies like this. Madness.

MOST cheering sight of the week was the CCTV footage of the thief in Drogheda, Ireland, who tried to smash the window of a Mercedes with a brick. It bounced back, hit him in the face and knocked him out until the cops arrived. Perfect.

WHILE every UKIP candidate and councillor has been relentlessly examined for signs of racism, anti-semitism or bigotry, the Green Party's candidates seem to have escaped scrutiny. This is probably because the default media mindset is UKIP=bad, Green=good. But the painfully embarrassing "brain fade" interview by Green leader Natalie Bennett surely raises questions. It is fair to assume that the mumbling, stumbling, lost-for-facts Ms Bennett, being leader of the organisation, is one of the best candidates the Green Party can produce. So what are the worst like?



HOW times change. In 2015, UKIP leader Nigel Farage's definition of "normal" immigration is about 50,000 arrivals a year. In 1968, Enoch Powell's definition of madness leading to "Rivers of Blood" was – about 50,000 arrivals a year.

A STUNNING photograph appeared this week of a weasel carried on the back of a woodpecker. The weasel was looking for a kill, the bird was desperate to get free and amateur photographer Martin Le-May was in Hornchurch Country Park to capture the split-second action. Both animals escaped unhurt. A million little dramas like this happen every minute and virtually all go unrecorded. Take the punch-up I witnessed this week between a pheasant and a grey squirrel, fighting over a pile of birdseed on our garden wall. I would have put money on the squirrel, which can inflict a nasty bite. But the cock pheasant kept nimbly out of snapping range, delivered a mighty kick and punted that squirrel clean off the wall. As any photographer knows, if you'd been waiting with your camera ready, that fight would never have happened.

BENEFITS Britain (C5) is the perfect programme to answer all sorts of questions about the welfare state. Why does one single mother with a baby get £56 a week but a disabled older woman gets £1,100 a month? Why does the unemployed man who gets £40 for a day's work then have his benefits cut by £100? How does the £56-a-week single mum afford her smartphone? How can a self-professed "singer/songwriter" get benefits for 20 years? But the series is short in the information business. It simply finds sad cases and films them at their worst for public entertainment. Like so many of these "reality" shows, it's really a peep show. Two hundred years ago tourists would pay to laugh at the lunatics in Bedlam asylum. These days we have Benefits Britain, and don't you come away from it feeling grubby?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Bostin' victory for festival organisers

ABSOLUTELY bostin' — that was the comment after the Black Country Festival won a top award. It was the day the Black Country went to London and beat competition from big names such as Barclays and Aldi to the honour. Now organisers in Dudley have called on Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell to make this year's event even better.

Dudley Council's public relation campaign won the Community Engagement campaign of the Year at the PRmoment awards 2015 held in London last week. Thousands of people attended events to mark Black Country Day, July 14, for the second year. Campaigners led by Gary Sawers founded the Black Country Festival to coincide with the day. Steve Ed-

wards is festival committee chairman and Dave Brownhill is events organiser. Events were held primarily in Dudley thanks to the support of Dudley Council communications officer Phil Parker and Councillors Pete Lowe and Ian Marrey. Mr Edwards, who attended the awards ceremony, said: "For us to go down all dressed up to London and win, it's absolutely bostin'."

"What we want now is Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall to be involved more, not just Dudley." Mr Sawers said plans were already gathering pace for this year's event with the return of the Halesowen Carnival among events planned. "Things are coming together well. We just want it to be bigger and better," he said.

# Council tax frozen but tough times are ahead

**COUNCIL tax in Dudley has been frozen for another year but councillors warn of difficult times ahead as Government funding falls.**

Dudley Council approved what is described as a 'very difficult budget' at a full meeting last week. The authority will have to make savings of £22.1 million in 2015/16 rising to £24.3m in 2016/17 and £26.3m in 2017/18. Officials warned this will leave a gap of £32.7m.

A total of 36 councillors voted in favour of the budget, with 18 abstaining and nine voting against.

While controversial plans to axe free transport for special needs children were shelved, to the delight of campaigners, other plans — including proposals to increase charges for sports pitches — were included.

### Fallen

Finance boss Councillor Stuart Turner said in 2010/11 the council was receiving more than £196m of grant funding, but said by next year the equivalent funding will have fallen below £130m.

The meeting was told the authority is on track to save £1m due to the ongoing management restructure, although some warned savings would be far less when costs are taken into account.

Councillor Turner said it would not be a one-off saving but ongoing. "Yes, there will be costs but they will be one-off payments which have been accounted for," he said.

By Lee Watton

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said the council could no longer rely on Government grants and had to look at ways of raising money.

He suggested commercialisation of some council services, such as construction or environment projects.

"The council needs to show real ambition and leadership and that is lacking in this budget," he said.

UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood put forward amendments, including axing the post of chief executive, but these were rejected.

Sarah Norman recently took up the £165,000 a year job.

UKIP also suggested free off-street parking at weekends and a cut in councillors' allowances.

Councillor Turner said: "Their gimmicks make good headlines but when examined more closely they crumble to dust."

## Real ale award for MP

A WEST Midlands MP who grew up in Sedgley has been presented with a Campaign for Real Ale award.

Andrew Griffiths, 44-year-old Conservative MP for Burton and Uttoxeter, received the organisation's Beer Parliamentarian of the Year award for his efforts to secure two consecutive cuts in beer duty.

Mr Griffiths, who was a pupil of High Arcal School, now lives in Burton upon Trent. He was presented with the award by Camra national director Bob Stukins and national chairman Colin Valentine at the annual Camra Parliamentary reception in the House of Commons.

## Frank's still in the frame at 78



Veteran cyclist Frank Hodgkiss, 78, is Wolverhampton Racing's clubman of the year

NEARLY 50 years after Frank Hodgkiss won a string of cycling competitions, the 78-year-old is showing no signs of slowing.

Frank has just won the clubman of the year award at Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club. The Sedgley rider still cycles at least 85 miles a week and helps organise events throughout the year.

Though he admits that the days when he competed against Hugh Porter seem like a lifetime ago, he has no intention of locking away his bike. He says the racing club is

still a major part of his life and fellow members are some of his best friends.

Frank discovered the club during regular visits to Frank Clements' bike shop in Snow Hill. He still attends meetings every Monday night and is involved in the running of the club. His wife Penny was a keen cyclist but was forced to give up due to arthritis.

But Frank hopes to keep going for years yet. "I go out cycling three times a week and it's great to get back and have a coffee with the others," he said.

# Fast train to capital at risk — engineer

DIRECT train services to London could be lost from the Black Country unless council bosses can prove they are needed, a top railway engineer has warned.

Andrew McNaughton, technical director of the proposed north-south high-speed train line HS2, said it was essential councils acted now to make the case why fast services to the capital from their towns should be kept.

It has been a major concern among opponents to HS2 that stations such as Wolverhampton and Dudley/Sandwell will lose their fast services to Euston because they will be replaced by a high-speed service from Birmingham.

Mr McNaughton said the Government has said towns should expect 'broadly similar services' to the ones they currently have when HS2 is completed in 2026.

"It is not like playing Thomas the Tank Engine," said Mr McNaughton. "You can't make promises now. The start of this process is long-term planning and the West Midlands needs to get involved now. The Midlands are good at this. Ultimately, Network Rail and the Department for Transport will decide but local government has a key role to play."

## Town's bus lanes axed

PLANS to scrap bus lanes in Halesowen have been approved.

Dudley transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed has given the go-ahead to axe the lanes in Bromsgrove Road and westbound on Queensway. It followed a 12-month trial which the council say shows no benefits in having them.

Councillors and residents had called for the lanes to be scrapped because of traffic queues.

Councillor Ahmed said: "The cost of revoking the lanes will be approximately £2,500."

## Movie matinee

TICKETS are on sale for a matinee screening of hit movie *Gone Girl* on Monday at Stourbridge Town Hall.

A husband finds himself in the spotlight when his wife disappears. It stars Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike. *Gone Girl* is screened at 1.30pm. Tickets cost £3.

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## Minister says 'green belt safe with us'

A MINISTER has insisted green belt land in Dudley is being protected.

Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis said the Coalition Government has reversed Labour measures that would have put the green belt under threat. He was responding to a question from Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who was seeking assurances that open green spaces would be protected.

Mr Lewis said: "As pledged in the Coalition agreement, this Government has safeguarded national green belt protection and increased protection of important green spaces. We have abolished the Labour government's top-down regional strategies which sought to delete the green belt in and around 30 towns and cities.

"I would note that the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Report published by the Government Office for the West Midlands in September 2009, was pushing for a number of adverse changes to green belt protection - that no doubt would have been implemented had the Labour Government not been ejected from office."

Mr Lewis added that councils now had more powers to protect the green belt.

## Bathroom shower fire

A WOMAN suffered minor smoke inhalation after her shower caught fire. She had just got out of the shower at her home on Bishop's Walk in Halesowen when she noticed smoke coming from her bathroom.

Hadon Cross fire station dispatched two fire engines.

Watch Commander Dan Griffiths said: "When the lady first noticed the fire she did the right thing by shutting the door, calling us and then exiting the property. Electric showers come with an isolation switch that we advise using in between showers."

## Road safety bid

THERE is a move to improve safety on roads in Wollaston following a spate of crashes. Dudley Transport boss Councillor Khushid Ahmed said the authority was considering speed management measures. He added: "Our engineers are looking into this issue."

# Fresh campaign to revive The Waterfront



Luxury flats are on the way at The Waterfront

MERRY Hill Shopping Centre bosses Intu have launched fresh efforts to find tenants for the nearby Waterfront development.

The company, which runs more than 20 shopping centres, including the Trafford Centre in Manchester, inherited the canal-side site when it acquired Westfield's half share of Merry Hill for £407.7 million last spring.

It is already planning to spend £20m on Merry Hill over the next three years, enlarging stores, creating more restaurants and attracting more big-name retailers. But it is also aiming to revamp the Waterfront.

Dudley Council has already launched the Dudley Business Investment Zone in a bid to fill up empty office space and create jobs at the Brierley Hill site, which comprises offices, retail and leisure premises and is soon to include 181 canal-side apartments as office block Point North is converted into The Landmark luxury flats.

Now, Intu has hired Halls Commercial to act alongside existing property agents Vail Williams to stimulate interest in The Waterfront.

Intu senior asset manager Nick Round said: "The Waterfront is a key part of our

ownership and it is our responsibility to ensure that we maintain and enhance the vibrant working community built around the marina."

The development comprises around 750,000 sq ft of offices and the agents are offering space from 600 sq ft up to 47,000 sq ft. There are around 2,000 parking spaces on site as well as bars, restaurants and a hotel. The Copthorne Hotel, HM Revenue & Customs, West Midlands Ambulance Service and about 40 businesses are in the area, including JD Wetherspoon and Virgin Media.

# Call for owners to be told when pets killed on road

**MPS from the Black Country have backed calls for the Highways Agency to identify pets killed on the roads and inform their owners.**

It followed a 120,000 signature petition which sparked a debate in the Commons highlighting the plight of Yorkshire teacher Judy Devine whose dog, Harvey, was killed on the M62.

She spent £8,000 trying to find him only to be told his body had been recovered by officials within 20 minutes of his death.

There have been calls for a 'Harvey's Law' to bring back mandatory scanning of animals to see if they are microchipped following a death on the road, as happens in Cornwall and Devon.

Stourbridge MP Margot James told the Commons: "I lost a dog on the road when I was a child, a Great Dane called Max. I have never forgotten him, but at least we knew within 24 hours or less, which saved a lot of additional heartache."

Dudley Council is inviting businesses and individuals to apply for a slice of funding for projects which will breathe new life into town centres.

Schemes can include bringing empty shops back into use, improving the appearance of a shopping area or kick starting an innovative business idea.

The money is available through the council's community forums with the latest round starting on Monday.

People can also discuss ideas or raise issues with councillors at forums which run at venues across the borough until March 24.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "The community forums are a great way for people to talk to us about some of the issues that need resolving in communities across the borough."

"There is funding available for people to kick start their own innovative community projects."

## Family

"Pets, especially dogs and cats, are part of the family. That is the most important reason to get this matter rectified with the national Highways Agency and other relevant authorities."

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, added: "None of my constituents' pets will be scanned in the event of such a tragedy but checks are still taking place in other parts of the country such as Cornwall and Devon."

"Those checks should be mandatory across the country. We need to do this for everybody."

Until 2012, it was mandatory for Highways Agency staff to scan collars to trace the owners.

The policy was scrapped following a spending review.

## Pitch battle over hire price hike



Front Patrick Harley and fellow Conservative Mike Wood with players from High Acres and Old Lark football clubs

FOOTBALL coaches and players have called for plans to increase pitch hire costs across the borough by up to 40 per cent to be kicked into touch.

But league officials and teams have been told they should take over the management of their pitches.

Senior adult teams will see a fee hike from just over £500 per season to around £710 under new rises ratified by the council last week.

League officials and managers hope to force the council to rethink the

price rise before it is introduced in August.

Councillor Patrick Harley helps run High Acres Football Club in the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League. The club play their matches at King George V Park, Wordsley.

Councillor Harley, leader of the Conservative group opposition, said the council would lose out if the rise caused teams to fold.

"They say the fees are the best in the Black Country. That is because

the facilities are awful," he said. "Showers in the changing rooms are lukewarm. They only come to mow the grass, paint the lines and take the goals down at the end of the season before throwing some seed down."

Leisure boss Councillor Hilary Bills said the council had been subsidising pitches but had to make savings. She added: "We have already made suggestions to them. If they try to manage them themselves they can get hold of more funding than the council could."

## Council dim the lights to save cash

HUNDREDS more street lights can now be dimmed in Dudley.

Lamps across the borough have been fitted with new energy-saving lanterns as part of the plan to cut energy bills.

Now 21,100 of the council's 32,000 street lights can be controlled to help save energy and 14,500 of these can be dimmed.

Last year the council revealed plans to turn off lights after midnight in some areas from 2016 onwards.

It is estimated the move could save £100,000 during the 2016/17 financial year.

## Young swimmers splash for charity

A SWIMMING club has raised £500 for charity with its latest event.

Brierley Hill Swimming Club made a big splash to raise money for CLIC Sargent for children with cancer in a sponsored swim.

More than 50 children aged four and upwards took part in two sponsored swim sessions at Dudley Leisure Centre, where the club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Representatives of CLIC Sargent attended both sessions to thank the children.

## Housing estates community event

A TENANTS' and residents' association are encouraging local people to get more involved in their estate by holding coffee morning.

Love Claycroft Tenants and Residents Association in Lye is hosting the open event on Monday from 9am to 10.30am at Lye Community Centre, Crosswalks Road. Visitors will get the chance to meet members and chat about the estates.

## More workshops for spider phobics

PEOPLE with a fear of spiders can learn to overcome their fears at workshops at Dudley Zoo.

An additional date has been added to the programme due to popular demand. It will take place on March 28 in the Rainforest Suite from 3pm until 5pm. It comes other sessions filled up. Call (01384) 215313.

## Three cars crash

POLICE and firefighters were called to deal with a three-car crash in Old Hill.

No one was injured in the smash in Garratts Lane shortly before 2pm last Wednesday near Bridge Street.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

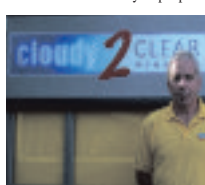
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

STAND by your beds. At last, a bit of commonsense from the governing classes.

First of all, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has told traffic wardens to give people 10 minutes leeway before hitting them with parking tickets. And now Dudley Council has announced it will remove two bus lanes from Halesowen. If it was up to me we would get rid of traffic wardens altogether.

Around 10 years ago Bridgnorth found itself without a traffic warden, and the town didn't collapse into anarchy. A few people parked on the pavement and the one-hour limit in the High Street was routinely ignored, but did it mark the end of civilisation? Hardly.

The money saved from getting rid of all the traffic wardens would pay for more police, who could deal with the small number of serious parking violations which put public safety in danger, while turning a blind eye to the ones that don't.

While we're about it, let's get rid of all bus lanes. I have nothing against buses, in the past week I have used them twice. What I don't accept is that boarding a vehicle which happens to have two floors and a staircase somehow makes me more virtuous than other road users. Let's be honest. The majority of people who use buses tend not to be in a hurry.

During my two journeys last week, the passengers broadly fell into one of two categories: retired people doing their shopping, and teenagers on their way back from the local comprehensive. The elderly folk didn't look to be in any sort of rush, I would say they probably enjoyed having time for a natter. The rowdy schoolkids, who made up the majority of the passengers, were definitely in no hurry to get to their destination early.

And me? Well I had taken the day off work to take my car into the garage. So I wasn't in a hurry either. However, the people in the surrounding cars and vans were in a hurry. People driving to and from work. Delivery drivers, white van men, truckers. The people whose work pays the taxes which subsidise the buses in the first place.

And they were stuck in the traffic queues while the bus glided through its designated lane, like a Communist Party official in the Zil Lanes of 1980s Moscow. Of course, the people responsible for the bus lanes don't see it like that. They doubtless take the view that by inconveniencing motorists, they make public transport more attractive. But do they really expect the washing machine repair man to start loading his tools onto the bus? How would they feel if the fishmonger started carting his wares up the stairs of the No. 7?

One of these days, the governing classes will realise that motorists are not some dissident group but just ordinary people going about their business.



The Miners Statue at Brownhills High Street's island



Historian Carl Chinn at the Hamstead Miners



The Davy Lamp miners memorial in Hednesford

# Memorials keep mining pride alive

**ADAM BURLING** takes a look at the memorials that have helped to keep mining alive despite pit closures

**THEY** are monuments to a bygone era when thousands of men toiled for long days in collieries across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

And though the mining industry has almost died out, memorials of all shapes and sizes are keeping its heritage alive.

Two are currently being planned in Staffordshire, as residents seek a way of paying tribute to the workers who spent their working lives down the pits.

And others have already been installed in Walsall Wood, Brownhills, Great Barr and Hednesford in recent years.

As the 30th anniversary of the end of the miners' strike was marked on Tuesday, the bitter dispute between Margaret Thatcher and the National Union of Mineworkers has been at the forefront of people's minds.

Communities were torn apart by the closures, with men who once had no trouble providing for their families suddenly struggling to make ends meet. Organisers say the memorials are giving villages and towns a sense of identity again.

The 55ft high replica pit head in Walsall Wood is believed to be the biggest mining memorial in the world.

Others bear the names of former pitmen, while the Davy Lamp memorial in Hednesford is surrounded by engraved paving slabs.

And there are also tragic tales lurking behind the fond memories, as scores of men died in accidents and disasters.

The desire to create a fitting tribute has also led to a dispute in Rugeley, with plans for a statue in the town delayed by a disagreement over the location.



The mining memorial in Walsall Wood, based just off Coppice Road

It has now been confirmed that the memorial will finally be unveiled on Globe Island in September.

The significance of mining to the Black Country and Staffordshire cannot be underestimated, with the Cannock Chase coalfields once supported 48 mines and the last, Littleton, shut in 1993. Only a pit wheel remains at the site now, in the shadow of the modern design of the Littleton Green Community School – providing a stark contrast between the area's past and future.

Council chiefs commissioned artist

Andy De Comyn to produce four 9ft sculpted figures for Rugeley, to commemorate 80 miners who were killed underground at Brereton and Lea Hall collieries.

And in Hednesford, the final of 3,500 bricks was laid at the Davy Lamp memorial a year ago.

With a museum also dedicated to the town's mining heritage, Hednesford has plenty of pride in the role it played in the industry.

In the early part of the 20th century there were seven pits working in the

area. But by 1975 only three collieries remained, providing employment for 5,200 men.

In December 1982 the last pit – West Cannock No.5 – known locally as the 'Tackeroo' ceased production.

Probably the most iconic of all the memorials in the Midlands is the 30ft steel-clad sculpture of a miner holding a lamp and pick axe that towers over Brownhills.

It was produced by artist John McKenna and has become a fixture on the landscape.

Mining was the main source of income for families in Brownhills until the last pit closed in the 1950s.

Brownhills was a hub of the industry, with at least 10 working pits there at its height.

The deaths of 144 men looms large over the history of Hamstead Colliery in Great Barr, where the memorial features an original coal tub on rails mounted on a brick plinth.

The worst accident was in March 1908 when a fire broke out in the pit, and though 250 men escaped, 25 perished – along with John Welsby, who was hailed a hero as he tried to save the others.

He was awarded an Edward VII medal and a local road, Welsby Avenue, was named after him.

For 100 years there was no visible memorial to the men who died, and the colliery as a whole.

But the Hamstead Miners Memorial Trust was set up in 2002 with the task of raising the necessary cash.

A replica of winding gear from the Walsall Wood colliery that stood close to the site, it was a part of a £40,000 project that also included sculptures of miners.

And it has attracted interest across the globe – achieving exactly what Mr Perry set out to do.

He said he wanted to create something to make people talk about the miners for generations to come. And it proves the links with our past are showing no signs of breaking.

## WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

"I've unblocked the logjam," declared David Cameron in the living room of the house he was visiting. "Blimey," I thought. "That's multi-tasking."

That is, until I realised he was on about the leaders' debates rather than the downstairs loo. We were in a showhome in Cannock where lots of people have made use of the coalition's Help to Buy programme.

It could be argued that if the biggest political kicking the Prime Minister got this week was about whether he wants to spend more time saying 'long term economic plan' on the telly, as opposed to the immigration figures, he's not doing that badly.

But it still didn't look particularly good for him that he only wants to go up against Ed Miliband during prime time once before May 7 and he wants five other party leaders there to dice each other in the crossfire.

So Mr Cameron reckons he has 'unblocked the logjam' by agreeing to a debate that has to happen before Parliament is dissolved on March 30.

## Weary

It turns out that rather than debating Mr Miliband the Prime Minister would rather be spending time up here.

"Let's hold the debate before the campaign takes place because otherwise it takes all the life out of the campaign and I want to be in Cannock, in Stafford, in Cornwall, in Cumbria, in Norfolk, in Suffolk," he said.

"Now is the time to hold a debate and I have, as it were, unblocked the logjam by saying let's have a seven-corner debate, let's have it before the campaign starts."

That's right. Before the campaign starts. That's the campaign that's basically been going on since last summer.

So if you weren't already weary of the pledges, the warnings, the scaremongering and the one-upmanship, you soon will be.

□□□□

"Sometimes it seems that environmental challenges like global warming are so big we can't possibly do anything about them as individuals. Or we are so busy and stressed in our everyday lives that we don't have time to think about it, or to take action. But tackling environmental issues – from climate change to energy use, waste to transport – is important for our future and in our daily lives we can all be doing something to reduce the harmful impact of our actions on the environment."

So wrote Harriet Harman, deputy leader of the Labour party. This the same politician who came to the Black Country this week and drove around in a fossil-fuelled pink campaign minibus. And it is the same politician who then got a train back to London while her minibus drove off somewhere else.

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## Midwife show sparks nun memories

EVERY time that I watch the TV programme 'Call the Midwife', my memory goes back to my childhood.

I was born in Bloomfield Road, Tipton, and just up the road from us was a bike shop. My first memory was that we used to take accumulators there to be charged up but I cannot remember the name of the then owner.

Whoever it was, was followed by a man who lived in Sedgley name Jack Bodenham, who rode a scrambler motor bike. He was followed by Ron Coe, who used to travel to the shop from his home in Bushbury.

Ron used to work for Jack Hateley, and learned how to build frames from Jack. For many years, I owned a frame that was built by Ron, and it was only confined to the scrap bin a few years ago.

Two nuns used to bring their tricycles for maintenance at Ron's shop. I have asked lots of people if they know what convent they came from but no one knows. They used to travel from Bradley's Lane direction.

I would love to find out. Can anyone help please?

**P COLE**  
Kingswinford

## Hill needs two lanes

WELL done to Dudley Council on closing the bus lanes in Halesowen as they were causing congestion.

Now, how about putting Mucklow Hill back to two lanes as it used to be?

That is surely a congestion hotspot in the mornings, as the traffic is back down to nearly the bottom of the hill some mornings.

It is also regularly trailing back to the island at the B&Q junction, as motorists are trying to get back in the nearside lane past what used to be the MEB offices — only for the carriageway to go back to two lanes just past there.

The exhaust pollution must be horrendous for the residents at the top of the hill.

So, over to you Dudley council.

**M GRAINGER**  
Halesowen

## Filthy mess blights the hedgerows

I HAVE recently driven along Lutley Lane, Halesowen, on my way to Northfield via Illey, trying to take in the great views of our country, with views of Cleat Hills and along to Frankley Beaches.

What I really noticed were not the great views but the filthy mess along the hedgerows, littered with cans, wrappers, polythene bags, bottles, fast food containers, black bags of rubbish, etc.

What is the mentality of dumping rubbish in countryside... or anywhere. We have become a country with a great lack of respect, no pride, no care for our environment. What can be done about it?

Councils should be more vigilant, heavy fines for perpetrators, maybe the unemployed and those on benefits should do litter picks, giving something back in turn? Maybe there should be more education in schools on awareness. Only last week I filled a black bag of rubbish from my local wood — does anyone care anymore?

**M HANKIN**  
Halesowen

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Time to end the council tax freeze

I MAY become unpopular with some people by voicing my opinion on the freeze of the council tax by Dudley MBC, but I am very much against it.

This is the fifth year it has been frozen and as each year has gone by we have seen spending on services cut and council staff jobs lost.

One only has to compare our facilities with those of some other boroughs to see what a second class area we have become.

If there was a small rise of three pounds or so a month — not even the cost of a pint of beer — I am sure that most people would not object, and those few pounds per household would add up

to quite a sum for the council to save some of our facilities — and not waste it on unnecessarily altering the Market Place yet again!

This rise would not affect the poorer members of our community as it would be covered by their housing benefit.

The rise and its results could make a big difference to our well-being and pride in our town.

The councillors should make this paramount when making the decision on rising or freezing council tax — and not concentrate on vote-catching and their own popularity.

**S MATANO**  
Wall Heath

## Backlash is unfair to OAPs

WHAT have we done to deserve this backlash? We went to work — provided homes for our kids without help from the state, only visited the doctor when absolutely necessary and still we seem to be blamed for the poor state of our once great Britain.

For years I have funded those who cannot work or will not work, whilst I go out to work come rain or shine.

I, and others of my generation deserve better in our latter years. We can no longer earn a living so please give us a rest.

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Brintons Bell Twist 80/20	£35.00	£12.95
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Gel Back Kitchen Carpet	£12.95	£3.95

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Brintons Axminster 80/20

100% Wool Naturals

Tomkinsons

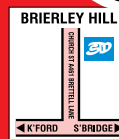
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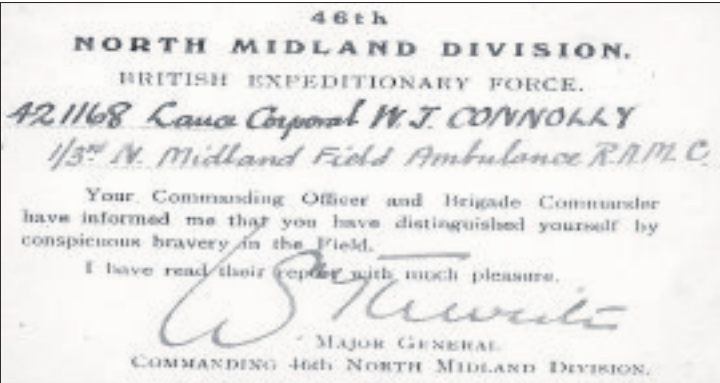
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William, with his Military Medal, and Lillian after he was injured



The postcard from Major General Thwaites, mentioning the medic's conspicuous bravery



L/Cpl Connolly with his wife, Lillian, during the Great War

# Army medic was pride of town

THE 137th Staffordshire Brigade made a vital and momentous contribution to the defeat of the Germans in the First World War when it broke the much-vaunted and formidable Hindenburg Line on the St Quentin Canal at Bellelglise.

This was the last German defensive barrier on the Western Front and it was stormed by soldiers drawn mostly from in and around Wolverhampton, Walsall, Burton-on-Trent and Hanley.

That victorious Brigade belonged to the 46th North Midland Division. It was one of the 14 peace-time divisions of the Territorial Force, which had been organised in 1908 with the aim of training part-time soldiers for home defence in the event of war.

As for the 137th Staffordshire Brigade it was made up of four battalions: two each from North and South Staffordshire. The 5th South Staffordshire Regiment had its headquarters and four companies at Walsall, with other companies at Bloxwich, Hednesford, Handsworth and Wednesbury; the 6th battalion was based in Wolverhampton, where it had three companies, with others in Willenhall, Sedgley, Darlaston, Bilston and Tettenhall. Its main recruiting

## MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

centre was at the Drill Hall in Stafford Street, Wolverhampton. The Brigade was made up not only of infantrymen and gunners but also of engineers and medics, who belonged to the Field Ambulance of Royal Army Medical Corps.

Among the Wolverhampton men of the 1/3rd North Midland Field Ambulance was Lance Corporal William J Connolly, Army number 421168. He was actively involved in the final months of the war, which began in March 1918 when General Ludendorff launched the German Spring offensive as a last attempt to gain victory.

Its initial successes were dramatic and demoralising, but after the Germans were finally repulsed in their attempts to capture Amiens, Ludendorff shifted his attacks to the north and the Ypres Salient in Flanders. In the Battle of Lys, his troops made significant gains but a final drive to capture the Channel ports was repulsed on April 29.

With the battle still raging, the next evening L/Cpl Connolly was the duty NCO at an advanced dressing station near to Gorre, a hamlet just to the east of Bethune that had been

turned into a support post. That night and into the next day, it was heavily bombed with mustard gas shells by the enemy. Distinguishing himself with conspicuous bravery, L/Cpl Connolly was awarded the Military Medal on August 30. The citation read that he 'remained at duty, despite incessant vomiting, till he could neither see or stand. His courage and devotion to duty was a good example to the men of the unit, and to the gassed men of other units who were passing through the dressing station'.

Having lost much of his sight, the valorous Wulfrunian was eventually moved to Bellahouston Hospital in Glasgow. Here he was visited by his wife of six months, Lillian, from whom he had been parted two days after their wedding.

After his recovery, Bill Connolly returned to Wolverhampton and was presented with 'a beautiful gold pocket watch' which his granddaughter Elizabeth Thompson is proud to have.

Elizabeth is keen to know if this watch 'was presented at a special ceremony and whether any other Wolverhampton men won medals and were given such a gift by the town'. She explains that before the Great War, her grandfather was 'a skilled Art Metal Worker, having served as an apprentice with F.J.J Gibbons from July 22, 1907 to April 23, 1911'. Elizabeth remembers that because of the mustard gas, her grandfather's "chest and lungs were badly damaged".

She adds: "His eyesight was also impaired and I believe that he was the first person to have a corneal graft operation at Wolverhampton and West Midlands Eye Infirmary." This came about because in 1942, Bill had a piece of grit removed from his left eye at the Infirmary. During the examination of his eye it was discovered that there was something else seriously wrong with his eye – the mustard gas had badly affected his cornea.

Bill began to go blind as his right eye was also impaired and then in 1951 a young German went to the Infirmary suffering from a tumour. However, the cornea remained healthy and after his eye was removed he gave permission for it to be grafted onto Bill's left eye.

Then the doctors turned their attention to Bill's right eye. Then in December 1952 another German walked into the Infirmary. He had to have his eye removed but also helped the Englishman. A few days later Bill had an operation and for several days afterwards lay in bed with his eyes covered in bandages until a nurse did not replace them in quite the usual way.

In his words, Bill 'took a sly peep' and was filled with great joy. He could see to the end of the room 'like a brilliantly lit theatre. The wheel had gone full circle. The debt had been repaid in full. The Germans who had deprived him of his sight had given him back his sight'.



William Connolly in his uniform

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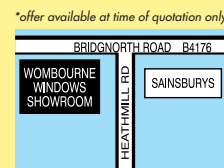
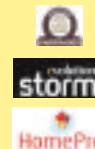
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# Greedy bosses of roof firm conned customers

**DIRECTORS** of a roofing firm initiated a 'frenzy of commission-led greed' as they conned customers out of millions in the Black Country out of millions.

Alan Wilson, aged 54, and Christopher Wilkes, aged 45, the directors of Therma Seal (Thermal Coatings) UK, have been jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court for their roles in one of the largest ever fraud cases.

A third defendant, Julie Barrett, of Hewell Avenue, Bromsgrove, was found guilty on one count of fraud and cleared of nine others. She is due to be sentenced on April 1 and has been told she is likely to receive a community sentence.

Customers in Dudley and Stourbridge were targeted.

Wilson and Wilkes were running a company that had an £8.5m turnover and 2,700 customers during the period of the fraud between 2010 and 2012.

The duo made a number of bogus claims about a roof paint in leaflets. This included that it could make a heat saving of between 15 per cent and 40 per cent and reduce heat loss by 25 per cent but they knew that the information was false.

## Sentence

Judge Martin Walsh said: "I am satisfied that both of you knew the claims made could not be substantiated. You embarked on a frenzy of commission-led greed and the imposition of the intended sentence will not only be a punishment, but deter any other perpetrators who might seek to con the public."

He said the defendants, who were found guilty of fraud by a jury, did not deliberately target the elderly, but a "consequence of the recruitment process" to get new customers was that



**Bogus claims over paint has landed director Alan Wilson in prison**

many of them were elderly, retired and vulnerable.

The pair had considerable experience of direct sales and had made 'grossly exaggerated' claims about the product. He said the company had traded fraudulently from the outset.

Charlene Sumnall, mitigating for Wilkes, of Tanworth Lane, Solihull, said the defendant had to break the news to his children that he was likely to go to prison.

She added: "It is not a fraud deliberately targeted at the elderly so Mr Wilkes could lead a wealthy lifestyle. He leads a modest lifestyle."

She said he apologised to all those affected by the fraud.



**Sales representative Julie Barrett will be sentenced next month**

Denis Barry, mitigating for Wilson, of Fazeley Road, Tamworth, said his client had a heart condition and had resigned as a director.

The pair were jailed for five years and disqualified from being company directors for eight years.

Following the hearing, Chris King, principle Trading Standards officer with Dudley Council, said: "The charges of fraudulent trading were a landmark case for us."

"We are very pleased with the result of this trial and we have seen significant custodial sentences for Mr Wilson and Mr Wilkes that reflects how seriously the court views this offence."

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28th - 29th	SCENIC SETTLE CARLISLE RAILWAY	£115.00
30th - 3rd APR	NORTH DEVON DELIGHTS	£229.50

### APRIL

3rd - 6th	EASTER IN PARIS & MONET'S GARDEN	£275.00
8th - 12th	OLDE-WORLDE SHANKLIN - ISLE OF WIGHT	£359.50
13th - 17th	ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT	£289.50
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## Big Switch set to save £300 on energy bills

RESIDENTS who signed up for a new energy scheme look to save an average of almost £300 per home on their bills, say the boss of Dudley Council.

The Big Switch has now closed and following an auction between energy companies the average savings have been announced.

The council partners for the auction with IChooser, the UK's leading expert in collective energy switching.

A total of 536 households registered with the scheme. It was combined with a number of other similar initiatives across the UK to create a collective of 30,000 households, led by over 100 councils.

In total 85 per cent of Dudley borough households who registered for the auction will save on their energy bills. The average saving per household will be almost £300.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "The two winning suppliers for the latest Big Switch are E.ON and Scottish Power who will supply a range of energy contracts. All the tariffs offered are market leading and exclusive to scheme members. These rates are not available direct from the suppliers or via price comparison services. The average savings per household really will help our residents."

Those who registered will receive a personal offer.

# Police launch recruitment drive for 200 constables

**WEST Midlands Police has launched the drive for 200 new constables with a three-week recruiting window opening later this month.**

The successful applicants will start training in November as the second batch of a total of 450 officers announced by former Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones before his death last year.

The first 200-strong intake have been posted to police stations after completing their 18-week training programme.

They will remain as probationary officers alongside more experienced staff for a further 18 months.

More than 4,000 people applied for those jobs and the force is bracing itself for a similar rush this time.

Chief Inspector Kevin Doyle, in

By John Scott

charge of the recruitment drive, said: "Before this started in February last year, the force had experienced a five-year freeze. The new application process continues to search for fresh, new and diverse recruits."

### Impressed

"We have been very impressed with the calibre of the candidates from last year's intake who have far exceeded our expectations and raised the bar high."

"Policing is challenging and rewarding. As a constable you will get to learn new skills and meet new people. As well as reducing crime, you will help to reduce the fear of crime by providing reassurance, inspiring con-

fidence and really making a difference to people's lives."

Those interested can formally apply during a three-week period beginning on March 23 but are encouraged to register interest now online. Those chosen will need to complete two years as a probationary officer.

West Midlands Police said potential applicants should have a passion for public service and a desire to make a difference in the region's communities.

Other attributes being sought are good communication skills, calm, confident personalities, problem solving and an ability to easily build relationships, be a team player and respect other people.

The force is specifically aiming to increase the number of black and minority ethnic officers to better reflect the communities it serves.

## Gym in a real spin to help the hospice



With the collection buckets are Jess Day-Bradley and Ffiona Stanley in the Trident Shopping Centre, Dudley

CUSTOMERS and staff at a Dudley gym got into a spin for a good cause when they took part in a spin-a-thon in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice.

The teams cycled for more than 13 hours when they held two community days last month at Active4Less in Trident Shopping Centre.

Organisers also held a bucket collection in the centre. Active4Less director Julie Ryan said: "It was a fun event. It went really well."

"We really felt that we were doing something worthwhile for the community."

"The young representative from Acorns certainly enjoyed trying out the spin bikes for the first time. The riders cycled solidly for three hours."

The club's instructors Jess Day-Bradley, Ffiona Stanley and Sham Stanley also took part in the event.

"We are independently owned with an ethos to support local community projects and charities," added Mrs Ryan.

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## Driver has lucky escape after railings crash

A DRIVER escaped with just a cut finger despite his car crashing and becoming impaled on metal railings in Stourbridge.

The car also demolished two garden walls in Envile Street, Wollaston, in the early hours accident last week.

The incident has prompted pleas to improve safety on the street near Katie Fitzgerald's pub opposite the junction with Mable Road.

Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill attended following a call from police. Metal railings smashed through the driver side windows of the car, narrowly missing the motorist.

Resident Kevin Woodward said he was woken up by the accident and saw the aftermath.

"I've only had the wall rebuilt by the council a few days ago and now it is damaged again," he said.

"There have been accidents down here before. We want the council to have a look at it."

Councillor Barlow said he had emailed Dudley Council transport officers to urge them to look at introducing safety measures.

Stourbridge firefighters at the scene tweeted that the driver had been 'lucky to escape' the stricken Nissan Micra.

**Stourbridge Chronicle** Thursday, March 12, 2015



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# Lessons are plain sailing for sixth form students

PUPILS at a Dudley secondary school are being encouraged to get out on the open water after it became one of the first in the region to make sailing part of its curriculum.

With their efforts inside the classroom delivering impressive results, bosses at Ellowes Hall School in Lower Gornal decided they would take advantage of their relationship with Himley Hall Sailing Club.

The sport has been part of the school's enrichment programme for the last year but staff have now taken the extra step of making it a permanent fixture on the timetable.

The offer will initially be open to sixth formers before being rolled out to younger pupils.

Two new sailing boats have been bought by the school, costing around £13,000, they have been named Aspire and Achieve after the school's motto.

Headteacher Alan Jasper said: "We try to be forward thinking and provide as many opportunities as we possibly can. We are relatively close to Himley Hall Sailing Club and thought it was something we could do and had members of staff who were keen to help out."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin paid a visit to the sailing club as the new boats were unveiled.

He praised the school for its focus on sport as well as getting results in the classroom.



Head teacher Andy Griffiths, Ian Austin MP, Tony Sutton, students Holly Holloway and, right, Maia Shillam

# Dudley tops energy over spending in the region

FAMILIES in the West Midlands will over-spend on their energy bills by £354 million this year.

According to new research, £3.4 billion is being unnecessarily spent on energy across the UK due to variable tariffs.

Unsurprisingly, London tops a list of 100 cities and major towns with the biggest overspends. But it's Dudley that comes in 13th place with £21.8m, followed by Walsall in 19th place with £20m, Wolverhampton in 22nd with £18.5m and Stafford in 65th with £9.6m.

In total, 70 per cent of the Big Six energy company customers are overpaying by an average of £235 per year in the UK when compared to the cheapest fixed tariffs on the market.

Independent energy company First Utility said the research it commissioned showed that 80 per cent of bill payers would find it useful to have more information about cheaper tariffs from their existing supplier and those from others in the market.

## Shocking

A similar percentage also said that more transparent bills and more information about the best tariffs available would increase their level of trust in energy companies.

Sarah Willingham, consumer champion at Lets-SaveMoney.com, said: "It's upsetting and shocking to see just how much money we are wasting in the UK by paying more than we need to for our energy."

"Traditionally the energy companies have not done enough to help consumers

By John Corser

get onto the best tariff and to save money."

Ian McCaig, chief executive of First Utility, said: "The UK energy industry has contrived to put itself in a situation where around two thirds of its customers are on the most expensive energy tariff the industry has to offer, namely the 'standard variable tariff'."

"That simply can't be right and is even more inexcusable in a climate where wholesale prices have been coming down."

"First Utility believes that the industry needs to change from within and do more to inform and support customers to help them make informed choices about the best tariff."

"A big step would be to scrap the standard variable tariff and call it what it is — the 'Out of Contract Tariff', the tariff you're left on when you're not on one of the good ones."

"Just as importantly, every household should be told in writing every single month whether there's a better, cheaper tariff for them anywhere across the entire industry."

# Jan's the man for Rotary Club dinner

FORMER Liverpool Football Club star Jan Molby is appearing at a charity sportsman's dinner in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday), organised by Dudley Rotary Club.

The legendary Danish midfielder, famed for his silky skills and his strong Scouse accent, will be star guest at the Molineux event.

Molby won both the league and FA Cup three times with Liverpool during his 12-year Anfield career and went on to have two spells managing Kidderminster Harriers.

## Comedian

The black tie event has been organised by Dudley Rotary Club and will also feature comedian Billy Flywheel and John Collier. Tickets cost £50 each.

For tickets or more information contact Keith Law on 01384 566266 or e-mail keithlaw53@hotmail.co.uk

# Nurseries to help Macmillan charity

A GARDEN centre has announced it will be supporting Macmillan Cancer Support as its charity for the year.

Ashwood Nurseries, near Kingswinford, has pledged to raise £15,000.

The money will go directly to an innovative pilot project in Dudley, which is aiming to improve palliative care and end of life services for people affected by cancer and other conditions.

The owner of Ashwood Nurseries, John Massey, will be opening up his three acre private garden on six days and donating all proceeds to the project. The garden, which has featured on TV, includes informal borders, island beds and woodland dells, against the beautiful backdrop of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.

Mr Massey said: "I chose Macmillan Cancer Support for the Ashwood Charity of the Year 2015 because I really value the important role they play in the care of cancer patients and their families."



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## Accent put on regional tour of UK

Wolverhampton Women's Luncheon Club

AT the February meeting at the Lindens, Tettenhall Road, chairman Val Billings welcomed 74 member, two guests and speaker Derek Poulson.

The chairman commented on the good weather and the crocus bulbs coming out in Wolverhampton, showing that spring is on its way.

She said Grace before lunch was served of wild mushroom soup, breast of chicken with bacon and thyme and peach melba, followed by tea or coffee with mints.

She mentioned the visit to the National Arboretum on Wednesday, 22, when a tree will be planted at 3pm.

A guided tour of the site costs £3 each and husbands and friends are welcome.

The speaker, a Yorkshireman, gave his talk on "It's not what you say, but the way that you say it".

He said at the age of 15, he wanted to go on the stage and he moved to the south of England where he learned to speak differently.

Derek took the members on a tour of the UK and Ireland, changing his accent to suit the region and making everyone laugh all the way through and especially when he reached the West Midlands and spoke about Upper and Lower Gornal. He felt that the West Midlands accent is the closest to Ancient English.

He now lives in Stoke-on-Trent and spoke fondly of The Potteries.

The chairman thanked Derek and Maureen Hewitt gave the vote of thanks.

## High standard from a competitive field



Winners Pam Booth-Jones and Tony Leech

Wolverhampton Bridge Club

PAM Booth-Jones and Tony Leech won the Mixed Pairs competition. Mike Barlow and Eileen Woolverton came second in a strong field of 26 players.

Chairman Ron Stevenson congratulated the winners and all players for the high standard of the competition and thanked the members who provided some delicious home baked cakes during the interval.

The Mixed Pairs competition, played on Sunday, March 1, is first in the club's annual programme of competitive bridge for pairs and teams.

Wolverhampton Bridge Club meets every weekday evening and Monday and Friday afternoons. Experienced players and beginners can join a range of social, competitive and learning bridge sessions at the well-adapted clubhouse at Shaw Park Business Village, Wolverhampton.

Details are on the website [www.bridewebs.com/wolverhampton](http://www.bridewebs.com/wolverhampton) or call 01902 424422.

## Minute's silence is held in tribute to former member

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 56 members and two visitors to the February meeting.

A minute's silence was observed for ex-member Mary Jones, who was in both the choir and drama group.

The federation reported problems with the annual lunch. It is proving difficult to find a suitable venue, and there has been a drop

Wollaston 'E' TWG

in members supporting this event. There was also disappointment in the lack of support for the carol service.

The speaker was a Mr Cochrane, who explained with the aid of slides, how both male and female convicts were transported to Botany Bay - now Sydney

Harbour - Australia, for the most trivial offences.

He said he had discovered one of his ancestors had suffered the ordeal of both the arduous voyage, and the strict regime imposed on prisoners upon arrival.

Raffle winners were Brenda Adkins and Wendy Crickard and competition prizes went to June Pardoe and Pat Archer.

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# Awards to recognise carers for hard work and generosity

CARERS who look after others will themselves be the focus when an awards ceremony is held in their honour this summer.

In Dudley alone there are 38,000 carers so the charity WeLoveCarers, based at Brierley Hill, will be celebrating their work with the awards bash. The night will see prizes presented to carers who look after parents, children or a spouse who may have a disability or condition.

The first awards ceremony was held last year, in which 12 people received a glass award made by at The Glasshouse College in Stourbridge. Prizes were given in categories including Young Carer of the Year, Care of an Adult, Care of a Child and a Support Group award.

WeLoveCarers chief executive Marc Carter said the event will be

held at the charity's Insight House HQ on June 12. He said: "We are doing this to raise awareness of the carers and of our charity."

Mr Carter described the awards night as an opportunity for carers to celebrate their achievements and enjoy entertainment and food.

The charity provides support for carers, including groups and information sessions, and carers can drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

However, the organisation does not receive any financial support from the Government and relies instead on money raised through a coffee lounge at the HQ, as well as revenue from hiring out rooms at the building for conferences, wedding receptions and other events.

Nominations have to be in by May 1, phone 01384 483708 for a form.



Get nominating — Marc Carter and Loraine Stockton of WeLoveCarers with forms for potential award winners

# £2m to expand the services at hospital

UP to £2 million will be spent expanding services at a Black Country hospital.

Bosses at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust want to offer a wider range of clinics and facilities at Rowley Regis Hospital.

They say it will mean more people can get regular treatment closer to home rather than having to travel to Sandwell Hospital or Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

A consultation is under way with residents to find out what services they would like to be available at the site in Moor Lane.

Ideas put forward so far include a pharmacy, mid-wifery services, such as antenatal and postnatal clinics, and respiratory therapy.

Improved gym facilities and space for support groups to help patients and families have also been suggested.

Chief executive Toby Lewis said up to £3m had been spent redeveloping the hospital during the past two years and now the trust expected to invest a further £1m to £2m by 2016.

# Action call after body bungle at MEP funeral

ANSWERS were being demanded after the wrong body was cremated at the funeral of West Midlands MEP Philip Bradbourn.

Mr Bradbourn, who was born in Tipton and lived in Wolverhampton, died in December at Sutton Coldfield's Good Hope Hospital after a battle with cancer.

His funeral took place in January at Wolverhampton's Bushbury Crematorium. However, the man who was cremated was in fact Philip Bradburn, who had passed away at University Hospital Birmingham before Christmas.

Both men's bodies went to Central England Co-operative Funeralcare mortuary but the wrong body was released for cremation at Bushbury on January 16.

A second funeral took place last month. On Monday this week, senior politicians including communities secretary Eric Pickles and transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin gathered at Wolverhampton's St Peter's Collegiate Church for a memorial service.

The 63-year-old, who was not married, was diagnosed with bowel cancer shortly after being re-elected to the European Parliament in May last year.



Euro MP Philip Bradbourn

Services have been held for both of the deceased.

Dr Andrew Catto, executive medical director and interim deputy chief executive, said: "This is an incredibly distressing situation and we are very sorry that this has happened. We are carrying out a full and urgent investigation between all the parties involved. This is a rare incident and we are offering support to those close to the deceased."

"Once the Trust became aware, it acted immediately. We are committed to finding out precisely what happened and reducing the possibility of it happening again."

"This occurred in spite of the fact that mortuary procedures conform to nationally defined standards and are subject to periodic audit."

"We are committed to supporting the request for privacy in this matter from those close to the deceased."

A spokesman for Central England Co-operative Funeralcare said: "The Society's Funeralcare operation provides services to a number of hospitals within the Birmingham area, but it is not our policy to comment on behalf of any of these organisations."

"The Society is supporting one of our partners in a full and open an investigation, but is not able to comment further while the investigation is ongoing."

## Investigation

Fellow Tory West Midlands MEP Anthea McIntyre said: "I was shocked that this could have happened. There must be an investigation."

"I find it hard to believe and I feel terribly sorry for anyone who knew the other person, as well as those close to Phil."

Mr McLoughlin said: "I have known Phil for 30 or 40 years. We were in the West Midlands Young Conservatives together so we go back a long way."

"We also both contested the Wolverhampton South East seat, me in 1983, and Phil in 1992."

"He was a stalwart of the Conservative Party in this area and I was very sad to hear of his death."

Heart of England Foundation Trust, which runs Good Hope Hospital, said it was carrying out a full investigation into a recent incident, involving two people with similar names, as a result of which the wrong deceased patient was cremated.

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# Tributes to footballer who travelled the world



Passionate about fitness and sport, particularly football — Ron Corbett, second right at front, in an RAF team from the 1960s

**A FOOTBALL coach from Dudley, whose love of the beautiful game took him around the world to train aspiring players, has died at 76.**

Ron Corbett was passionate about sports from an early age becoming a boxing champion while still attending Dudley Grammar School. He died on February 26 at Russells Hall Hospital. His funeral will be held at Gornal Crematorium today (Thursday) at 9.40am.

Daughter Jacqui Crump said even though battling dementia, her father

still tried to keep himself fit. He was born on the Priory estate and as a teenager played for Wolves, West Bromwich Albion and Dudley Town.

During National Service he played for RAF and Combined Services football teams and was a semi-pro player during the 1960s at Kidderminster, Lye and Lower Gornal, before managing Brierley Hill Alliance and Oldswinford. He also had stints at Kidderminster Harriers as assistant manager and manager of Solihull Borough.

In the 1980s he coached in America, the Faroe Islands and spoke with fondness of his time coaching in Jamaica.



Former football coach Ron Corbett

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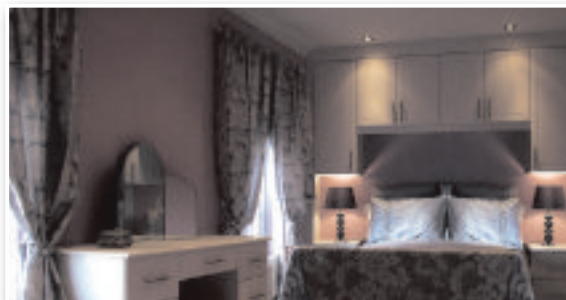
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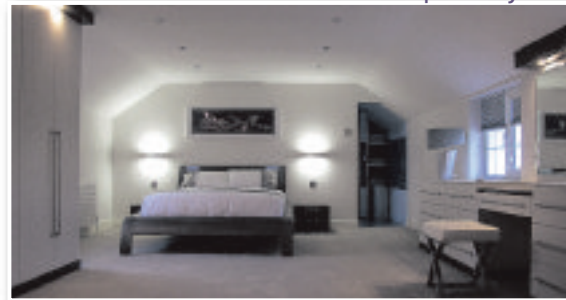
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## Madonna tour coming to Brum

SOON after recovering from her dramatic fall at the BRIT Awards, pop icon Madonna has announced a new tour including a Birmingham date in December.

Just days after her fall at the end of the Brits sparked headlines around the world, when a cape dragged her into a backwards tumble during a dance routine, the Queen of Pop's Rebel Heart tour was announced for 35 cities in Europe.

Madonna will perform at the Barclaycard Arena, the former NIA, on December 16. Tickets go on sale on March 16.

The singer, 56, revealed that she suffered whiplash injuries in her BRIT's fall when her red and black Armani cape was tied too tightly around her neck. "I smacked the back of my head," she told Jonathan Ross, on his show to be broadcast on Saturday.

## Whereabouts unknown for 39 West Midlands sex offenders

**ALMOST 40 convicted sex offenders in the West Midlands have gone missing. One has been missing for almost 10 years.**

Police revealed that they do not know the whereabouts of 39 registered sex offenders, one who went missing in 2006 and a further nine between 2010 and 2012.

Behind London, the West Midlands has the highest number of missing sex offenders in England.

By Tim Spiers

West Mercia Police said six registered sex offenders were missing, including one whose whereabouts had been unknown for eight years. Figures from Staffordshire Police were not available.

Across the country, 396 sex offenders are wanted, including some who have been missing for more than a decade.

## Royal visitor on the SVR line

HER Royal Highness Princess Anne is to take a trip along the Severn Valley Railway as part of its 50th anniversary.

The Princess Royal will pay her first visit to the attraction on April 13. She will meet staff, volunteers, founding members and apprentices, as well as being invited to ride on the footplate of one of the railway's steam engines. The visit coincides with the line being voted Heritage Site of the Year in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards earlier this week.

A welcome party of dignitaries and SVR representatives will welcome Princess Anne and her escort, the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, at Bewdley, where she will also meet a group of SVR pioneers and young volunteers.

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**Back to the 60s with Benidorm star in Hairspray!**



Tony Maudsley as Edna

BENIDORM star Tony Maudsley will be putting on the big frock to play Edna Turnblad in the return of feel-good 1960s musical Hairspray!

Maudsley will be swapping hairdryers for ham dinners when the Hotel Solano's chief crimper takes on the role of the maxi-sized mom of high school rebel Tracy Turnblad.

The touring show has been chosen as the festive season musical treat at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, from December 14 to January 9.

#### Motormouth

Joining him in the cast will be actor and former Blue Peter host Peter Duncan as Mr Turnblad, West End star Claire Sweeney as the wicked Wasp Velma Von Tussle and former X Factor finalist and We Will Rock You showstopper Brenda Edwards as Motormouth Maybelle.

Freya Sutton will reprise her role as the irrepressible Tracy after starring in the 2013 tour.

# Sir Tom joining the bill for a 'Made in Britain' V Festival

## EastEnders has tough new role

TO millions of TV viewers he is known as soft-hearted Barry from EastEnders but theatre goers in Wolverhampton will soon see Shaun Williamson play as a tough guy.

He stars in 1960s-set farce One Man, Two Guvnors from Tuesday, March 17, to Saturday, March 22, at the Grand Theatre.

Williamson played in the BBC soap between 1994 and 2004 as Barry Evans, who was dramatically killed off when his lover Janine Butcher pushed him off a cliff. But 11 years later, the actor plays Charlie Clench in a show which is a glorious celebration of British comedy.

"I always enjoy coming to Wolverhampton, it's a beautiful theatre," he said. "The show is incredible and probably one of the funniest things I have been a part of in my career. It's like an adult pantomime meeting a Carry On film."



Shaun Williamson as a gangster in One Man Two Guvnors

**MUSIC legend Sir Tom Jones will be playing alongside chart toppers Kasabian and Calvin Harris at this summer's V Festival.**

Grammy and 2015 BRIT winner Sam Smith, fellow BRIT winner Paloma Faith, Ellie Goulding and Welsh rockers Stereophonics and Paloma Faith are also on the bill in a home-grown line-up to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary.

The event will be held at Weston Park on the weekend of August 22 and 23, with a mirror image V taking place over the same weekend at Hylands Park in Chelmsford, Essex.

Headlining on the Saturday at Weston Park will be Scottish DJ Calvin Harris and V regulars Stereophonics.

They will be joined by The Script, Ellie Goulding, Paloma Faith, George Ezra, The Kooks, Clean Bandit, Chvrches, Kodakone, Ella Henderson, Jessie Ware, Duke Dumont, Gregory Porter, Ella Eyre and Irish rockabilly singer Imelda May.

Sunday will see Sir Tom joined by Leicester rockers Kasabian, Sam Smith, Ollie Murs, Irish singer/songwriter Hozier, Courteeners, Nero, Annie Mac, Labrinth, Andy C, Jess Glynne, Fuse ODG, Marina & The Diamonds, Hannah Wants, Reverend & The Makers, Scottish folk/pop singers The Proclaimers and hip hop legends Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

#### British

Festival director Simon Moran said: "We wanted to champion British talent at this year's festival and with the likes of Calvin and Kasabian leading the way we don't think it'll disappoint."

"The eclectic mix of established artists and rising stars, with a few more in the pipeline, means that once again there is something for everyone at V Festival."

"It's incredible to think what V has achieved in two decades. When we started out in '96, we were two stages and one tent, with the northern site only hosting one day of acts. Since then we've hosted some of the most iconic acts from around the world."



Sir Tom, now a judge on TV's The Voice

Most festival-goers will be spending around £199 on weekend tickets including camping.

But those with a bigger budget will again be able to try something more upmarket with ready-built bell tents, huts and luxury yurts.

More acts will be announced soon to perform on the festival's four stages and in the Glee Club comedy tent.

Off stage there will be other entertainment including a silent disco on the Friday and Saturday nights, food and drink stalls for weekend campers, and funfair rides.

Tickets went on sale on Friday.

## Let it go and sing along with Frozen

DISNEY'S Frozen is a phenomenal success. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen, the Disney studio's 53rd animated feature has become a billion dollar box office blockbuster.

Fans of the story about Princesses Elsa and Anna will join in with their favourite movie at Sing-a-Long-a Disney's Frozen at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday. It's so popular that all three showings have sold out but it will return for two performances on May 25.

If your little ones prefer dinosaurs to Disney, prehistoric puppets ensure it's a Jurassic lark at Birmingham Hippodrome for Dinosaur Zoo at the Hurst Street venue from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday.

## It's a Special night at the Glee Club

DREADLOCKED Northern Irish singer/songwriter Doo Special is in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on Sunday.

The singer and pianist (born Peter Wilson) has collaborated with Clannad, written songs for an exhibition at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and appeared in a Brecht play at the National Theatre.

His most recent single is Elephant Graveyard and he comes to the Arcadian Centre venue three weeks before the release of latest album Look out Machines.

Californian singer/songwriter Brett Dennen, who toured with Paloma Faith, is at the Glee on April 15.

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CHOICE



**You're Back in the Room (ITV, 8.20pm)**  
New series. Phillip Schofield is joined by renowned illusionist Keith Barry in a game show where five strangers team up to win a potential £25,000 by completing apparently simple challenges. The only things standing between them and the money are their own minds – because they have all been hypnotised. Over the course of four rounds, the tasks get much harder as their hypnotic triggers cause the players to inadvertently sabotage their chances of winning. This week, celebrity chefs Lesley Waters, Paul Rankin, Ed Baines and Aldo Zilli join in the fun.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Formula 1: The Australian Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights. **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Ireland (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Scotland (Kick-off 5.00pm). **6.55** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.15** **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first of two knockout rounds this weekend, in which Rita Ora and Will.i.am reduce their teams down to the three acts that will perform in the live shows. The vocalists each choose a solo song and step into the spotlight for what could be the final time, knowing that five out of each group will be leaving disappointed at the end of the day. Continues tomorrow. **8.30** **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items. Plus, the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin. Last in the series. **9.20** **Casualty.** Lily is involved in an accident on her way home from work when her moped collides with a schoolgirl – and when she admits she was tired, the youngster's father is furious. Has the young doctor jeopardised her career? The medics grow suspicious of a couple when urine tests on a mother and her baby bring up traces of amphetamines. Connie and Rita argue as the team continues to be overworked, while Cal steals money from Ethan for Taylor's charity. **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, including Burnley v Manchester City at Turf Moor and Arsenal v West Ham United at the Emirates Stadium; National Lottery Update. **11.50** **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents. **1.10** EastEnders. **3.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.10** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** **Film:** Jules Verne's Rocket to the Moon. (1967) **8.10** Six Nations Rewind. **9.10** Six Nations Rewind. (R) **9.30** The Fred Dibnah Story. (R) **10.40** The Fred Dibnah Story. (R) **11.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.55** Kenneth More: Talking Pictures. **1.25** **Film:** North West Frontier. (1959) Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall and Kenneth More. **3.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R). **6.00** **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don has advice on how to get the best out of hellebores, and Carol Klein visits a couple hoping to create the garden of their dreams over the coming year with her help. (R) **6.30** **Afghanistan: A Service of Commemoration Highlights.** Coverage of yesterday's ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, where the Queen led a service to mark the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, followed by a parade of British troops. **7.30** **How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson.** The science author explores innovations in capturing and transmitting sound, including a look at the printer in France who first recorded the human voice. Last in the series. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring is alarmed to discover the extent of butcher Corporal Jones's cash-flow crisis and takes drastic measures to help him. Comedy from 1975, starring Clive Dunn. (R) **9.00** **Film: Hockney.** (2014) Premiere. Documentary exploring the career of acclaimed artist David Hockney. The film uses previously unseen home movies and photographs taken from his personal archive to create a visual diary of Hockney's life, and examines his upbringing in working-class Bradford, his relocation to America, the influences on his work and his desire to escape categorisation. **10.45** **Film: Enigma.** (2001) A gifted mathematician employed to crack Germany's latest cipher fears a female colleague he has fallen for is a spy. Second World War drama, with Dougray Scott. **12.40** **Film:** Puppet on a Chain. (1971) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Doc Martin. (R) **3.35** Secrets from the Sky. (R) **4.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme 1: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **You've Been Framed! Top 100 Weddings.** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips. (R) **7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Georgie duo go head to head in this week's high-stakes round of Ant v Dec overseen by Ashley Roberts, Little Ant and Dec cause more mayhem and there's a spectacular End of the Show Show with tango masters Vincent Simone and Flavia Vaccaro. The Supercomputer hits the road again, and another member of the studio audience claims to win the contents of a commercial bank. **8.20** **You're Back in the Room.** New series. Game show in which five strangers are hypnotised by Keith Barry and must tackle apparently simple challenges as a team, hoping to win £25,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. **9.20** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** A Madonna special in which the Queen of Pop talks about her infamous fall on stage at last month's Brit Awards, and performs two tracks from her new album Rebel Heart. **10.20** ITV News: Weather. **10.40** **Film: Mercury Rising.** (1998) An FBI agent shields an autistic child from government assassins after the boy cracks a supposedly unbreakable top-secret code. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.30** The Grid. **7.00** Cycling: Revolution Series. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Utteter, Kempton Park and Lingfield Park. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **The Simpsons.** When Miss Hoover asks her students to research their family history, Lisa is distressed to discover that most of her forebears seem to have been crooks and deadbeats. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.05** **The Restoration Man.** George Clarke revisits Nik Huddy and Vanessa Ford Robbins, who set out to transform a Victorian game lodge in Surrey, but found they needed an extension to live there comfortably. (R) **8.00** **The World's Wildest Weather.** The mystery of red rain falling in Sri Lanka and India, how unusual weather is making Florida the sinkhole capital of the world, and strange lights in the sky that are baffling locals in a remote Norwegian town. Plus, ready-made snowballs in Alaska, giant spiderwebs covering trees in Pakistan, shard of ice sprouting from the ground in someone's back garden, and an underwater cold in Mexico. **9.00** **Film: Bridesmaids.** (2011) A disgruntled woman is asked to be maid of honour at her best friend's wedding. Taking charge of the pre-nuptial bridal celebrations, she resolves to give her pal and accompanying bridesmaids the time of their lives, but as her efforts slide into chaos she finds the wife of the groom's boss is keen to usurp her position. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig. **11.30** **Film: True Lies.** (1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **2.00** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.05** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.20** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.25** SpongeBob SquarePants. **11.00** **Film:** Open Season 2. (2008) **11.00** **Film:** Hitch. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Will Smith and Eva Mendes. **2.55** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **3.45** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **4.40** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **5.40** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.30** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Repossession experts Mike Allonby and Terry Jones roam the streets, looking for cars belonging to people with outstanding unpaid loans. (R) **7.20** **Police Interceptors.** Hayley rushes to help two badly injured motorcyclists, while Ross and John haul in a drink-driver who has left a trail of destruction in his wake. Duncan has to escort a 176-wheel monster truck through Worthington, Steve deals with a boy racer, Tom goes undercover on the trail of some suspected bike thieves, and Duggie plays gooseberry on a couple's first date. (R) **8.15** **5 News Weekend.** **8.20** **NCIS.** A navy recruitment officer is murdered at a high school and the agents discover he had recently begun a relationship with a married teacher whose wife held a grudge against him. They also find out a student's father was vehemently opposed to his joining the military, and receive help from an unexpected quarter – Ducky's esteemed predecessor, Dr Magnus. (R) **9.15** **NCIS: An ex-serviceman is beaten to death in his own back garden, and the agents are forced to consider the possibility his wife – a marine and martial arts expert – is the killer. (R)** **10.10** **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** The investigation of a man stabbed to death in an alley leads the team into a fetish scene in which people dress up as dolls in custom-made rubber suits. **11.05** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The death of a marine who became pregnant by a rapist brings the unit into conflict with the Pentagon, and the case brings back painful memories of Benson's own sexual assault. (R) **12.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Costa Del Casualty: Benidorm ER. (R) **4.00** The Boy They Call Fish: Extraordinary People. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** **Film:** Real Steel (2011) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **12.55** Uncle 1.25 Bluestone 42 1.55 Russell Howard's Good News **2.25** Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **3.25** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Secret Life of Elephants **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Hostages **10.55** The Joy of the Bee **11.55** Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond **12.55** Charlie Brook's Weekly Wipe Extra **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.00** The Secret Life of Elephants **3.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **4.00** Close **ITV2**  
**11.15** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** Catchphrase **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.50** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday **2.07** **3.40** Mr Bean **4.45** **Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **6.50** **Film:** Twins (1989) **9.00** **Film:** Rush Hour (1998) **11.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **11.25** Reality Bites **12.10** Ibiza Weekend **1.10** Crazy Beaches **1.35** Hell's Kitchen **2.20** Fake Reaction **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**11.45** Jane Eyre **2.00** **Film:** Carry On Cruising (1962) **3.55** Wycliffe **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.05** Inspector Morse **12.25** A Touch of Frost **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**  
**11.45** Counting Cars **12.45** **Film:** All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) **4.00** Storage Wars: Texas **4.10** Storage Wars **5.10** **Film:** Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **7.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Miami ePrix. **9.30** Cricket World Cup Highlights **10.30** **Film:** Jaws 3 (1983) **12.30** **Film:** South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999) **2.10** Hogan's Heroes **2.35** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**11.35** Marry Me **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** Baby Daddy **2.55** **Film:** Step Up (2006) **5.00** Troy **5.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** Troy **2.15** The Inbetweeners **4.00** Taking New York **4.55** Make It or Break It **Film4**  
**11.00** Guadalcanal Diary (1943) **1.00** The Rocker (2008) **3.05** The First Wives Club (1996) **5.10** Star Trek: Insurrection (1998) **7.15** Jumper (2008) **9.00** Chronicle (2012) **10.40** Watchmen (2009) **1.50** Dark Star (1974) **3.35** Close

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## CHOICE



**Mr Selfridge (ITV, 9pm)**

Harry is thrown when Nancy suddenly announces they should keep their relationship professional, at least until the Selfridge Estate is finished. A grieving Mr Grove is keen to carry on as normal, but continues to shun Miss Mardle, while Grace and Gordon have an embarrassing encounter with Mr Crabb. Victor and Elsa come up with a new idea for Colleano's, Violette catches the eye of a visiting French count, and a huge 'Britain at Play' promotion is launched in the store to keep the shareholders happy. Drama based on the life of Harry Gordon Selfridge, starring Jeremy Piven, Zoe Wanamaker, Amanda Abbington, Tom Goodman-Hill, Kara Tointon and Amy Beth Hayes.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Formula 1 – Australian Grand Prix Highlights. 2.40 Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Italy v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 5.55 The Big Painting Challenge.**

**6.50 Countryfile.** The show comes from Northern Ireland, where Matt Baker finds out about the hares that have made their home at Belfast International Airport and helps out at RSPB reserve Portmonee Lough, the first in the country to offer a year-long residential volunteer programme.

**7.45 The Voice UK.** The knockout rounds come to an end and the line-up for the live shows is revealed as coaches Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson finally settle on the three acts they are each taking through to the quarter-finals. Presented by Emma Willis and Marvin Humes.

**9.00 Poldark.** Period drama set in late 18th-century Cornwall, based on the novels by Winston Graham. The closure of the local tin mine leaves hundreds out of work and desperately poor, so Ross considers reopening his family mine with a view to bringing prosperity back to the area. He takes time out to accompany his cousin Verity to a ball, where she falls in love with Captain Blamney – a man who turns out to be hiding a dark secret – and Ross causes a stir by getting intimate with the now-married Elizabeth.

**10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea v Southampton and Everton v Newcastle United.

**11.40 Comic Relief – The Best Bits.** A selection of clips from Friday's entertainment extravaganza from London Palladium, where celebrities including Lenny Henry and John Bishop performed to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa. (R)

**12.40 The Apprentice USA. 2.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.10 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.10 The Football League Show. (R) 7.30 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.00 Countryfile. (R) 9.00 Six Nations Rewind. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 A Taste of Britain. 12.30 Film: Merrill's Marauders. (1962) Adventure, starring Jeff Chandler. 2.05 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. (R) 2.35 Three Up, Two Down. (R) 3.05 Hi-de-Hi! (R) 3.35 Flog It! 4.35 Galapagos – Islands of Change: Natural World. (R) 5.35 Supercars vs Used Cars: The Trade Off. (R)**

**6.35 Pompidou.** The penniless aristocrat realises a bowl he gave to a friend for Christmas is now worth £1million, and he and Hove hatch a plan to try to reclaim it. Jane Asher guest stars.

**7.00 Comic Relief – The Best Bits.** Highlights from Friday's extravaganza to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa, including a Little Britain special featuring David Walliams and Stephen Hawking.

**8.00 Top Gear.** The presenters immerse themselves in the world of classic cars, Richard Hammond compares Subaru's WRX STI with VW's Golf R.

**9.00 Dragons' Den.** Duncan Bannatyne bids farewell after more than 10 years on the show, and fellow Dragons Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney are also stepping down. Their final chance to invest in new ideas sees two young entrepreneurs pitching a bespoke suit-tailoring business, and a registered nurse trying to gain investment for her life-saving product. An eco-friendly skip on wheels causes confusion in the ranks, while edible insects give some of the panellists the creeps.

**10.05 Bluestone 42.** New series. The members of the unit find themselves trapped in hostile territory, while Bird has to step up as leader.

**10.35 The Revolution Will Be Televised.** Part two of two. The German embassy receives a visit from the London congestion charge collection team and James and Barnaby go on a fact-finding mission to the EU.

**11.05 Film: Burke & Hare.** (2010) Comedy horror, with Simon Pegg, Andy Serkis and Tom Wilkinson.

**12.30 Film: Lone Star.** (1996) 2.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.35 Holby City. (R) 4.35 This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Neds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled! Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.30 Scrambled! Hunk and the Agents of Smash. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.35 River Monsters. (R) 2.40 Tipping Point. (R) 3.40 Film: Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller, starring Timothy Dalton.**

**6.10 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.20 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Radio 2 presenter Ken Bruce, former England midfielder Paul Ince, EastEnders actress Laia Morse (Mo Harris) and boxer David Haye compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. (R)

**7.30 Off Their Rockers.** Mo embraces modern fashion, Tony reveals a saucy secret and Royston shares his strange inventions, as the irreverent hidden-camera show continues.

**8.00 All Star Family Fortunes.** Sunderland defender Wes Brown and actress Jill Halfpenny team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.

**9.00 Mr Selfridge.** Harry is thrown when Nancy announces they should keep their relationship professional. Mr Grove continues to shun Miss Mardle, and Violette catches the eye of a French count.

**10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.15 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.** Arriving at a cave system, the contestants use their rope skills to navigate the tight spaces and waterfall descents in search of their dinner, a pig carcass that Bear has hidden. (R)

**11.15 Live Cup Rugby Union. 12.10 The Store. 2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.15 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15 How I Met Your Mother. 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. 7.05 How I Met Your Mother. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.25 Film: Step Up 4: Miami Heat. (2012) Premiere. Dance drama sequel, starring Kathryn McCormick. 4.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.35 Channel 4 News.**

**6.05 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.** Property experts meet a couple of fitness fanatics who cannot decide between buying a property on southern Spain's Costa Tropical or opting for a bigger house in the Cotswolds.

**7.00 Four Rooms.** Dealers Gordon Watson, Celia Sawyer, Alex Proud and David Sonnenenthal battle it out over a lock of Napoleon's hair, recycled haute couture worn by burlesque star Dita Von Teese and an erotic silver chess set.

**8.00 Great Canal Journeys.** New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a watery adventure, starting in the romantic city of Oxford, where they began their courtship many years ago. They follow the gentle contours of the Oxford Canal through the Chertwell Valley, where they meet novelist Philip Pullman and are joined by their son, fellow actor Samuel West.

**9.00 Indian Summers.** Cynthia is left reeling when Eugene makes a revelation about his family's finances, while Sarah uses her knowledge of Alice's secret past to blackmail her friend.

**10.00 Britain's Racist Election.** Recalling how a political campaign took a street to the brink of racial segregation in 1964, when maverick Conservative Peter Griffiths won the West Midlands seat of Smethwick.

**11.05 Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse.** (2010) Bella Swan's supernatural love triangle threatens to ignite a conflict between vampires and werewolves. Romantic fantasy sequel, starring Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

**1.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. 2.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.30 River Cottage Veg Heroes. (R) 4.55 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 5.05 Location, Location, Location. (R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Pip Ahoy! (R) 6.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.05 Only the Little White Van. 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.30 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.45 Mio Mao. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.20 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 8.25 Zack and Quack. 8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.00 LazyTown. 9.30 Dora and Friends. 10.00 Spangolb SquarePants. 10.35 Access. 10.45 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 11.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 12.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 1.15 Film: Lost in Space. (1998) Sci-fi adventure, starring William Hurt and Gary Oldman. 3.50 Film: Surf's Up. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. 5.25 Film: A Bug's Life. (1998) Pixar animation, with the voices of Dave Foley and Kevin Spacey.**

**7.10 5 News Weekend. 7.15 Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider.** (2001) The gun-toting treasure seeker is thrown into a furious battle with a mysterious secret society as she races against time to locate the missing pieces of a legendary artefact that grants the owner the ability to control time.

**9.00 Film: Killer Elite.** (2011) A former secret agent comes out of retirement when his mentor is captured by an Arab leader. The hostage will be freed if the ex-spy kills three fellow operatives in punishment for murders they committed. However, a shadowy society of assassins intends to protect his targets and keep their past crimes a secret. Action thriller, with Jason Statham, Clive Owen and Robert De Niro.

**11.20 Film: Revolver.** (2005) A gambler is helped by two enigmatic loan sharks to exact revenge on his deranged former boss for landing him in jail. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham and Ray Liotta.

**1.35 SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming, 3.10 Filming My Father: In Life and Death. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes **7.25 Film:** Race to Witch Mountain (2009) **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** Bluestone 42 **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.35** Live at the Apollo **2.05** Stop Cutting Our Girls: A Comic Relief Special **BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Great War **7.40** London to Brighton in Four Minutes: Side By Side **7.45** Secret Knowledge: Bolsover Castle with Lucy Worsley **8.15** The Polio Story: The Vaccine That Changed the World **9.00** Nina Conti Clowning Around **10.00** Film: Untouchable (2011) **11.45** The Irish Rock Story: A Tale of Two Cities **12.45** Darcy Russell's Looking for Audrey **1.45** Narnia's Lost Poet: The Secret Lives and Loves of CS Lewis

**ITV2**  
**12.05** Take Me Out **1.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.40** Scorpion **2.30** Film: Freaky Friday (2003) **4.35** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **5.35** Art & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.55** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00** Ibiza Weekend **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30** Film: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1997) **12.20** Mom **1.15** Crazy Beaches **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

**ITV3**  
**11.10** A Touch of Frost **1.20** Wycliffe **2.35** Bertie and Elizabeth **4.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.40** Inspector Morse **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.30** Film: The Elephant Man (1980) **1.55** Perspectives: David Walliams: The Genius of Dahl **2.45** Judge Judy **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**  
**12.40** Hogan's Heroes **1.45** Pawn Stars **3.35** Storage Wars: Texas **4.05** Storage Wars **5.00** The Big Fish Off **6.05** Film: Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **8.00** Live Cup Rugby Union **9.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00** Film: Runaway Train (1985)

**E4**  
**12.30** Revenge **1.30** The 100 **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** Film: Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Troy **10.00** Rude Tube **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** Lattos After Dark **12.35** How I Met Your Mother **1.35** Rules of Engagement **2.25** The Mindy Project

**Film4**  
**11.00** Winchester '73 (1950) **1.00** New in Town (2009) **2.50** Time Bandits (1981) **5.10** Five Children and It (2004) **7.00** The Phantom (1999) **9.00** Battleship (2012) **11.35** I Think I Love My Wife (2007) **1.25** Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter – and Spring (2003)

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**MONDAY**  
**Outbreak, Channel 5, 10.50pm**  
An expert in infectious diseases races against time to find a cure for a rapidly fatal airborne virus which is wiping out the population of a small town, and is threatening to turn into a pandemic. However, his task is hampered by senior military men, who are bent on burning down the town and incinerating the virus with it, regardless of any casualties. Thriller, with Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman, Kevin Spacey and Donald Sutherland. (1995)

**TUESDAY**  
**Carry On Up the Jungle, ITV, 11.40pm**  
A Victorian explorer recalls how he was recruited by an aristocrat to find her missing son in the African jungle. Teaming up with a fearless hunter, he hoped to find a rare bird on his journey - but instead fell into the clutches of an all-female tribe. Comedy, starring Sid James, Frankie Howerd, Joan Sims, Kenneth Connor, Charles Hawtrey and Terry Scott. (1970)



Outbreak, Monday, Channel 5, 10.50pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Hollywood Homicide, BBC1, 11.15pm**  
Two cops are put to the test by the baffling case of a rapper murdered on stage, but they are more concerned with escaping the daily grind of catching crooks than the machinations of the music industry. While one moonlights unsuccessfully as an estate agent, the other sees this high-profile case as a chance to fulfil his dream of becoming an actor. Action comedy, starring Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnett. (2003)

**THURSDAY**  
**Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson and Mary McCormack. (2013)

**FRIDAY**  
**Passchendaele, BBC2, 11.35pm**  
A Canadian soldier is injured in battle during the First World War, and falls for a nurse in the hospital. Declared unfit for duty due to ill health, he is reassigned to a recruitment station - but he tricks his way back to the front line to protect the brother of the woman he loves. Drama, starring Paul Gross. (2008)

# Looking back at 30 years of a TV classic

No Australian soap has been as indelible as Neighbours on British culture.

From those early lunchtime screenings on BBC1, the saga of Ramsay Street folk has touched a chord with millions.

It helped make recording stars of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan; was a training ground for Hollywood talent such as Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, Margot Robbie and Alan Dale, while characters such as Karl and Susan Kennedy have become household names.

In Neighbours 30th: The Stars Reunite (Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm), Kylie, Guy, Margot, Jason and Della Goddard reflect on their time in the show.

Stefan Dennis (Paul Robinson) and Tim Phillips (Daniel Robinson) introduce proceedings, and welcome Ian Smith and Anne Charleston (Harold and Madge Bishop), Mark Little (Joe Mangel) and Craig McLachlan (Henry Ramsay).

Paul Robinson, arguably the greatest soap villain since JR, has been a dream role for Stefan Dennis.

"He's a great part," enthuses the seasoned thespian. "People say to me, 'What's your favourite storyline that you've ever done on Neighbours?' That's one of the hardest questions for me, partly because of the amount of years I've been on the show, and because my character and my storylines are so diversified, I can never answer that question."

Stefan appeared in that first episode 30 years ago, had a dozen years off, and then returned to Ramsay Street. A decade later he's still going strong.

"I came back for two weeks as a guest star. It was, as they say, 'an offer too good to refuse.' It is funny because I'll mention (on set), 'That storyline I did a couple of years ago, and one of the cast members will say, 'That was six years ago.'"

Stefan might be happy to talk about the show which made his name, but Jason Donovan is more reluctant to reflect on the era when Scott and Charlene's wedding won the hearts of millions.

"There's a whole bunch of fans that have an emotional connection with that. It's a long time ago, I certainly understand how there's a big affection for it..."

Alan Fletcher is far happier chatting about his roles in the beloved soap. That's right, he's played someone other than ace doctor Karl Kennedy.

"It was the late Eighties and I played a character called Greg Cooper, who was a mechanic. I played him for three weeks," he recalls.

"They asked me to come back and do a year on Neighbours, but I declined because I was busy working in the theatre. Mercifully they didn't forget about me and I went back to work for them seven years later."

Alan returned to the show as Karl in 1994, but didn't have a clue that the role would dominate his life.

"I had no concept of the show lasting that long," he remarks. "Also, as a working actor, you never really like to think about how long a cult's going to go. I signed a one-year contract and I thought, 'A year on Neighbours. That'll be really cool. Then they extended it by another year. I thought, 'Great. Another year. Terrific. And then I blinked,' he laughs.



Neighbours 30th: The Stars Reunite, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

## BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Britain's Benefit Tenants Channel 4, 9pm**  
Due to falling numbers of council housing tenants, more and more people are renting privately, and many do so via housing benefit. Private landlords often use specialist letting agencies who are skilled in making the most from this particular marketplace, one of whom is the focus of this documentary. It follows agent Andrew Dyke, from Goldthorpe in South Yorkshire, who manages almost 1,000 clients, and who has achieved success due to his personal, hands-on approach. This week, that method even extends to him kicking in the door of one of his buildings, which has been hastily abandoned by the tenant. After gaining entry, he's surprised to find what looks like a cannabis factory. No wonder the occupant left in a hurry...

**TUESDAY**  
**Ordinary Lies BBC1, 9pm**  
New series. Ensemble drama following the workers at a car showroom, revealing what happens when moments of desperation lead some of them into telling big lies - spur-of-the-moment deceptions that quickly spiral out of control. The first episode focuses on salesman

Marty, played by Jason Manford, who is on his final warning for being late - so when he sleeps through his alarm after a heavy night of drinking, he panics and comes up with a drastic excuse. His colleagues are all sympathetic - but now he has to live with the lie that his wife is dead. Max Beesley, Jo Joyner, Mackenzie Crook and Michelle Keegan co-star.

**Life After Suicide BBC1, 10.45pm**  
The leading cause of death in men below 50 is suicide, yet people still seem reluctant to talk about it. Birkenhead woman Angela Samata, whose partner Mark took his own life 11 years ago, meets others who have suffered a similar loss, asking why some people choose to take their own lives and whether those left behind can ever come to terms with their bereavement. Those she meets include Downton Abbey actor David Robb, talking about the death of his actress wife Briony McRoberts in 2013, and a Norfolk woman who is living with the suicides of both her husband and son.



Ordinary Lies, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Stargazing Live BBC2, 8pm**  
New series. Professor Brian Cox and Dara O Briain return to Jodrell Bank Observatory as they look ahead to Friday's total solar eclipse - one of the biggest astronomical events of the decade. They are also joined by Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, while Brian makes his own attempt to land a lunar module at Nasa and Dara finds out what happened to the rocks brought back from the moon. Dr Lucie Green gives advice on how to get the most from moon-gazing and Dallas Campbell gets to grips with robots that could revolutionise space exploration.

investigates what sugar does to the body, finds out why some people have more of a sweet tooth than others and how sugar is added to many supermarket favourites believed to be purely savoury. She is also joined by four volunteers whose sugar-heavy diets could be putting their health at risk. Together they come up with ways to beat their sweet cravings and reduce their intake - but will it make a noticeable difference?

**FRIDAY**  
**Alan Carr: Chatty Man Channel 4, 10pm**  
The chat show these days is less about great quotes and more about those jaw-dropping moments that go viral. While Graham Norton may be the king of the genre, with James McAvoy and Mark Ruffalo on unicycles and that Will Smith dance routine (31 million hits and rising), Alan Carr has given him a run for his money. The Tom Hiddleston dance scene from a couple of years ago is well worth tracking down if you haven't already. Now the NTA-winning host is back for a new run with The Voice coaches Rita Ora, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Tom Jones; Hollywood heartthrob Antonio Banderas; EastEnders' Danny Dyer, and providing the music is X Factor runner-up Ella Henderson. She'll be performing her new single, Mirror Man.



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Saturday 28th March 2015

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Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

22	4	9	10		25	4	23	4	8	4	I	13	18
13		5			4			23			15	M	4
4		11	7	5	24	25	13	23		12			23
9	16	15			4					17	24	6	24
17		12		1	4	7	20				23		14
	14	16	5	19		18		10	21	13	7		13
				6		4		12					
24	15	24	26	13		21		24	4	5		16	
2		22			15	24	10	14		11			14
10	17	24	9			14				10	12	24	
19		6			13	23	13	9	24	7	14		5
5		13			15			24			23		18
2	24	7	3	11	13	14	10			18	13	22	16

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	Y	P	G	O	V	N	M	D	I	W	Z	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	K	L	Q	A	B	C	E	U	B	H	F	X

1	14
2	15 <b>M</b>
3	16
4 <b>I</b>	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

### Cryptic Clues:

### Across

1. Instruct the others all round in self-control (9)
2. Someone's age revealed inside (3)
3. Makes a call for some jewellery (5)
4. More than one reflection is written about poor game (6)
5. The excursionist is a dancer (7)
6. When they run out the eggs should be cooked! (5,2,4)
7. Rates revised about certain valuable items (9)
8. The bearing of one who succeeds, we hear (3)
9. This could surely be used for a spell (11)
10. A shrub bed with a single flower (11)
11. Performer disturbed by air-test (7)
12. Dispatches mail for appointments (5)
13. It's used for painting the sails of a ship (6)
14. The position of the rider making a pace (7)
15. To promote, choose one before others (6)
15. Scoring implement needed for the clerk (6)
17. Nautical cry coming from a street around Virginia (5)
19. Part of a meal unchanged (5)
18. This may show high temperature when sluices are affected (7)
20. Coach charges (7,4)
21. What to do with seventy-five per cent of the flesh! (3)
22. Sounds like the second person to provide farm stock (3)
23. African trumpeters? (9)

## Down

2. Someone's age revealed inside (3)
3. Makes a call for some jewellery (5)
4. More than one reflection is written about poor game (6)
5. The excursionist is a dancer (7)
6. When they run out the eggs should be cooked! (5,2,4)
7. Rates revised about certain valuable items (9)
10. A shrub bed with a single flower (11)
13. Gabriel located in northern Russia (9)
14. The position of the rider making a pace (7)
16. Scoring implement needed for the clerk (6)
19. Part of a meal unchanged (5)
21. What to do with seventy-five per cent of the flesh! (3)

[illegible]

**Quick Clues:**

### Across

7. Overcome (9)
8. Tenanted (3)
9. Tempest warning (5-6)
11. Constructor (7)
12. Pour fat over (5)
13. Folly (6)
15. Tranquillity (6)
17. Rogue (5)
18. Lover of country (7)
20. Cut off (11)
22. Plant (3)
23. Esteemed (9)

## Down

2. Deserter (3)
3. Shy (5)
4. Bird-house (6)
5. Elevate (7)
6. Conjuror (11)
7. Assertion (9)
10. Inventiveness (11)
11. Liveliness (9)
14. Maker (7)
16. Athletics (6)
19. Topic (5)
21. Before (3)

		8		3	5			6
			9		4	5		
5						9	8	
	4			2	3	8		
	8		4		1			5
		5	8	9			2	
	5	9						
		4	1		2		9	
1			7	4				8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S

2	6	4	7	5	9	3	8
8	1	7	6	3	4	2	9
5	9	3	1	2	8	6	7
6	3	2	4	7	5	8	1
9	4	5	2	8	1	7	6
1	7	8	9	6	3	5	4
4	2	6	5	1	7	9	3
3	5	9	8	4	6	1	2
7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Uneven; 8 Polish; 10 Dilates; 11 Towel; 12 Wines; 13 Bared; 17 Utter; 18 Style; 22 Traw; 23 Awful; 24 Ageless; 25 Packet; 26 Sphere; 27 Draw; 28 Outdoors; 29 Healing; 30 Tasty; 4 Sorties; 5 Drowsy; 6 Shale; 9 Estate car; 14 Attelier; 15 Steeped; 16 Leashed; 19 Adopt; 20 March; 21 Heaps. QUICK - Across: 7 Exotic; 8 Crease; 10 Replete; 11 Fling; 12 Site; 13 Peace; 17 Trite; 18 Tear; 22 Rouse; 23 Various; 24 Fellow; 25 Screen. Down: 1 Repress; 2 Complete; 3 Slew; 4 Preface; 5 Rapid; 6 Verge; 9 Defective; 14 Freedom; 15 Devotee; 16 Present; 19 Gruff; 20 Bully; 21 Price.

1. Who added the King's to King's Lynn?
2. Which popular author was born James Alfred Wight?
3. In which county is Stansted Airport?
4. Which philosopher asserted 'I think, therefore I am'?
5. What relation are Clement and Lucian to Sigmund Freud?
6. For which flower is heartsease another name?
7. How is diamorphine better known?
8. Who plays Harry Potter in the movie versions of JK Rowling's books?
9. For which fictional hero did Alexander Selkirk provide the model?
10. Which Italian team did Robbie Keane leave to join Leeds United?

**Last week's solutions:**

**Quiz:** 1 Paraffin; 2 Master of the Rolls; 3 Sydney; 4 Parkinson's disease; 5 Ku Klux Klan; 6 Oleander; 7 Buddhism; 8 Greece and Albania; 9 Aldous Huxley; 10 Berlin Philharmonic.

**Niner: BROACHING**

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

549 gives a fish,  
7126 gives a second fish,  
883 gives a third fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Spring Auction

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**Wood Street Kidderminster DY11 6UB**

A spacious four bedroom end of terrace house. Ex-off licence on prominent corner position. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Cellarage. Four Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Gas to radiator central heating. EPC: E



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**Bullus Road Stourport DY13 9DG**

A spacious and extended 2/3 bedroom 2-bathroom semi detached house requiring refurbishment. Substantial modern side extension and good sized south facing rear gardens. Living room, separate dining room or ground floor bedroom 3, bathroom, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, further first floor bathroom, off road parking. Vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating E



**GUIDE PRICE  
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**Fort Mahon Place Bewdley DY12 2PB**

A substantial and traditionally built two double bedroom detached bungalow. Hall. Bathroom. Recently refitted Kitchen. Living Room. Integral Garage. Driveway plus fore and rear gardens. Double glazed. Gas to radiator central heating. Energy Rating E



**GUIDE PRICE  
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**Redstone Lane Stourport DY13 0JQ**

A 3-bedroom link semi detached house requiring up-grading and re-fitting. Recessed porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, south facing rear gardens, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating D



**GUIDE PRICE  
£100,000-£120,000**

**CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060**

**Shrawley Avenue K'minster DY11 7NP**

A 3-bedroom semi detached "Wates" style pre-fabricated re-inforced concrete (PRC) house built around 1949 and having a large plot on the fringe of the Rifle Range Estate in Kidderminster. Reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, vacant possession upon completion. **Energy Rating E**

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**Tanwood Lane Chaddesley Corbett DY10 4NT**

A detached country cottage surrounded by open countryside and standing on a good level plot approaching 1.3 acres or thereabouts. The property is set within a particularly nice rural but not isolated location between Chaddesley Corbett and Bebbroughton. A very rare opportunity within this incredibly sought after area. Vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating G



**GUIDE PRICE  
£250,000-£300,000**

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**Hartlebury Road Stourport DY13 9NL**

A detached and extended red brick 2/3 bedroom end terraced Victorian house with a waterside position, requiring refurbishment and repair. Living room, kitchen, breakfast room/ground floor bedroom 3, ground floor wet room/wc, 2 bedrooms, first floor bathroom, attic room, vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating F



**GUIDE PRICE  
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# Extended town house for offers around £119,950

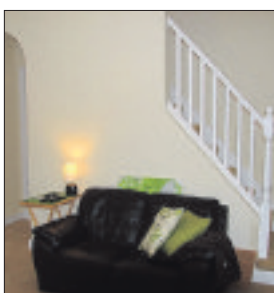


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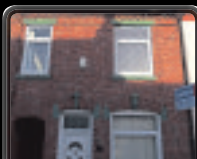
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##### BRACKEN PARK GARDENS

**£435 pcm\***

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##### SUMMER STREET

**£470 pcm\***

Mid Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Part Furnished

#### BRIERLEY HILL



##### DELPH ROAD

**£695 pcm\***

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#### DUDLEY



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**£415 pcm\***

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#### DUDLEY



##### BOURNE STREET

**£375 pcm\***

Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Large Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Allocated Parking

#### KINGSWINFORD



##### HAZEL ROAD

**£410 pcm\***

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

#### UPPER GORNAL



##### GOODRICH MEWS

**£685 pcm\***

Town House, Lounge, Kitchen, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Good Bedrooms, Shower Room, Separate Toilet, Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

#### WORDSLEY



##### BELLS LANE

**£625 pcm\***

Semi-Detached House, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Good Bedrooms, Shower Room, Separate Toilet, Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

#### GREAT BRIDGE



##### EAGLE PLACE

**£370 pcm\***

Ground Floor Flat, Security Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Communal Grounds, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

#### WILLENHALL



##### YALE ROAD

**£700 pcm\***

Link Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage

#### TIPTON



##### DUDLEY PORT ROAD

**£395 pcm\***

Ground Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Maintained communal grounds, Unfurnished

#### WOMBOURNE



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**£595 pcm\***

First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

#### KINGSWINFORD



##### BEECH ROAD

**£425 pcm\***

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#### KINGSWINFORD



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# Celerio for no-nonsense

## Commercial feature

**Suzuki has had a tough time in the past few years and when pressed, its UK importers tend to hold up their hands and put the blame squarely on global exchange rates.**

Yes, those same exchange rates that saw Daihatsu pull out of the UK and Subaru discover that the relative strength of the yen versus the pound made its cars as expensive as some BMWs and Audis. We have every sympathy for Suzuki.

Subaru were pretty much hosed for a while because all of its manufacturing base was in Japan, so it bore the full brunt of the fiscal fluctuations. Suzuki has boxed a bit cleverer and has leveraged its longstand-



ing association with Maruti in India to bring us the Celerio citycar. Can it compete with some very sophisticated rivals in the UK? More to the point, does it even need to?

The one-litre three-cylinder petrol engine develops a total of 66bhp at 6,000rpm and 89Nm of torque at 3,500rpm, so you're going to need to give the throttle pedal a bit of treatment to get anywhere.

There's plenty of space in the cabin for five occupants. The boot is vast for a city car, with a capacity of 254-litres.

The Celerio is tasked with pensioning off both the Splash and the Alto in the Suzuki range, which is quite a weight of responsibility to land on its narrow shoulders. Built in Thailand, it's clearly targeting the value end of the city car market.

Prices start at around £8,000 for the SZ3 version, rising to around £9,000 for the plusher SZ4.

Standard specification highlights for the Celerio SZ3 includes six airbags (Driver, passenger, side and curtain), ESP stability control, air conditioning, alloy wheels, DAB Radio, CD Tuner, USB, Bluetooth connectivity and remote central locking. The even higher equipped SZ4 model adds polished alloy wheels, rear electric windows, front fog lamps, body coloured door mirrors and chrome front grille. The Celerio is offered in six colours, of which five are optional metallic finish and one a standard solid colour.

Also available is Suzuki's Auto Gear Shift (AGS) transmission featuring an intelligent shift control actuator positioned at the top of the gearbox that operates the gearshift and clutch automatically.

The one-litre triple engine makes some very respectable figures, eking 65.7 miles from a gallon of unleaded and emitting just 99g/km of carbon dioxide. Go for the AGS-equipped model and things get even



.....

**Suzuki reckon on emissions of just 84g/km, some of the lowest for such a conventional petrol-engined car**

.....

better. Suzuki reckon on emissions of just 84g/km, which is one of the very lowest figures for a conventional petrol-engined car. If you were expecting something cheap and primitive when you saw that Maruti association, think again.

The Suzuki Celerio is always going to be overshadowed by state of the art city slickers like the Volkswagen Up or the Renault Twingo, but it was never really designed to compete with the more high-end offerings of the city car sector.

It's easy to overlook the fact that after the Hyundai i10 and the Volkswagen Up, the biggest selling citycar in the UK in 2014 was the Suzuki Alto. The Celerio looks set to do even better than the Alto, with its super-low emissions and clever transmission.

If you want a car that is utterly no-nonsense, easy to use and which we'd bet will prove to be extremely reliable, the Celerio demonstrates that these qualities needn't cost you the earth.

The fact that it's well-equipped and is incredibly cheap to run is just the icing on the cake. It might not seem an obvious hit on first acquaintance, but give this one time. We think it could be the sleeper hit of the year.



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Representative example Celerio SZ4 5dr										
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**Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 99-84 g/km.**

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. \*This offer is available from 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. This offer relates to Suzuki Personal Contract Purchase (PCP Finance Deal). All prices are correct at the time of going to print. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Contract based on 6,000 miles per annum. For full details contact your local Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. This offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands & Isle of Man). Suzuki Financial Services Limited, part of Lloyds Banking Group: St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Suzuki Financial Services. Model shown: Celerio SZ4 (metallic paint available at £415). For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.



# Welcome to Oak Garage at Cornbow Halesowen and quality used vehicles

## Commercial feature

When it comes to finding value and high quality used vehicles Oak Garage at Sterling Park, Merry Hill takes a lot of beating. What's more, the team can provide all this, plus a customer service experience that will entice you back again when it's time to replace your car.

Established in 1971 Oak Garage has gained an enviable reputation for delivering quality and value. As an official Motability Partner, the dealership offers ex-Motability cars sourced straight from the organisation itself.

These vehicles will have been properly maintained to manufacturer standard and regularly valeted throughout their lifetime.

Any minor paint or body damage will have been removed and all will have main dealer stamps in the service book. A considerable number may also still be covered under the manufacturer's warranty and most will carry extremely low mileages being no more than three years old.

## Showcases

Whilst Oak Garage in Sterling Park, next to Merry Hill, displays its vehicles within a spacious new showroom, this friendly independent specialist dealership often showcases its vehicles at various popular retail centres in Halesowen, Dudley and across the surrounding area.

Final preparations are now underway to display vehicles on a large stand within the Cornbow Centre in Halesowen so that shoppers can view Oak Garage's 'star cars' when visiting the town's largest retail complex.

From today and for the next six months, Oak Garage will be presenting one of its cars on the stand situated between Druckers Vienna Patisserie and Asda at the bottom of the escalator. These vehicles will be regularly changed to give shoppers an ideal opportunity to see the sheer breadth and variety of cars available at the dealership.

For much of the time the stand will be manned. A computer is being set up so that stand visitors can view all 50 cars available at the Merry Hill dealership through a 'virtual showroom.'

## Requirements

What's more, because Oak Garage is one of the larger ex-Motability fleet car suppliers, the sales team have access to Motability's entire ex-fleet database where over 1,000 cars can be seen online, any one of which can be quickly sourced and supplied, taking into account all your personal requirements.

Oak Garage's unique 'All Inclusive Package' also includes an HPI Vehicle History check and pre-delivery valet and access to low rate finance facilities from Close Motor Finance and MotoNovo, two of the best names in the business.

Be sure to visit Oak Garage's stand at The Cornbow Centre, Halesowen from this Thursday as with more than 1,000 superb ex-Motability vehicles available at any one time, they are bound to be able to find a car that exactly matches your needs and lifestyle at a price you can afford.

To find out more call 01384 75097 or visit their excellent website by logging onto [www.oakgarage.co.uk](http://www.oakgarage.co.uk)

You can also visit Oak Garage's new showroom at Units 1-2 Sterling Park, Merry Hill, DY5 1TB.



# OakGarage.co.uk

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# New Kia Soul stands out

By Graham Breeze

**The Kia Soul arrived in 2008 offering distinctive SUV styling, but despite being one of the first beefy crossovers in the UK sales never really took off.**

Now Kia has introduced the second generation model with even more dramatic styling at just the right time with the B-segment SUV market really booming across Europe.

Kia research discovered that buyers are looking for the appearance, semi-elevated position and perceived safety advantages of a 4X4, but without the fuel consumption and taxation that all-wheel-drive normally brings to the party.

Riding on the same platform as the Kia Cee'd there's no doubting that this new arrival stands out in any company with the

distinctive chunky SUV-inspired looks of the bold original – but with more space.

The SUV look comes thanks to sharp angles and bulging wheel arches while the top spec Mixx 1.6 CRDi on test came with gloss black wheel extensions, 18 inch alloys and roof rails.

This Kia looks good and has performance to match. With 126bhp you can expect a top speed of 112mph, 0-60mph in 10.8 seconds, 56mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 levels of 132g/km.

Inside the cabin you'll find black woven upholstery, electric windows, tilt and telescoping steering wheel and a funky black high gloss centre fascia containing an eight inch touch screen with all the information you'll ever need to enjoy the driving experience.

There's 60/40 split folding rear seats and Kia has worked hard to improve storage space with plenty of extra pockets and cup holders.



**'Improvements to the suspension system mean you get a better ride and feel more confident in corners.'**

Compared to the first Soul, the latest version has a 20mm longer wheelbase and is 15mm wider and is 10mm lower to the ground. Boot space has increased by 14 litres to 354 litres, plus you get extra storage under the boot floor.

Safety has also been high on the agenda with ABS, electronic stability control, hill start, tyre pressure monitoring, emergency stop signalling with Normal, comfort and Sport modes available at the flick of a switch.

There's front, side and curtain airbags

and impact-sensing automatic door unlocking as well as an engine immobiliser.

Improvements to the suspension system mean you get a better ride and feel more confident in corners. The Soul is surprising comfortable on motorways too.

Prices start at £12,600 but the test car would cost you a cool £19,750, which is lot of money for a car of this size.

The advantages though include Kia's incredible seven year or 100,000 mile warranty and roadside assistance for 12 months.

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**VAUXHALL**

**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 - 85g/km.\***

Participating Retailers only. Model featured Astra Excite 1.4 5dr in Power Red from £12,595 on the road and Astra Limited Edition 1.6 5dr in Power Red from £14,495 on the road. Offer available on orders or registrations from 4 March to 1 July 2015, subject to availability. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Prices shown are correct at the time of publication. UK-supplied vehicles only. \*Applicants must hold a full, valid driving licence and be 18 years or over to qualify for a test drive. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

# Insignia – back to the front?

By David Banner

Welcome to Britain's best selling traditional family car. Yes, you heard that right Vauxhall's Insignia. Launched in 2008 as a more stylish replacement for the uninspiring Vectra, this model was instantly well received, carrying off the coveted 2009 Car of the Year title and racking up impressive sales at the same time as other mainstream brands were struggling.

This improved model has had a thorough chassis update tested on proper bumpy British roads, with a redesigned rear suspension system to improve ride comfort and a steering calibration refreshment that's brought a more direct feel through the corners.

And both of those issues can be further improved if you tick the extra-cost box for the FlexRide adaptive damping system.

You can't fault the effort that's gone into all of this – over 60 percent of the chassis componentry is new – but it's not enough to make this into a car you'd really describe as 'rewarding'.

What it does do is perfect what was there in the first place. For most of the people, most of the time, this, dynamically, is all the car they will ever need, quietly and effectively getting on with the job of getting you from A to B.

## Refinement

The 'quietly' bit's important. Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall's 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn't one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class.

But isn't now. Though at the launch of this revised version, an old 2.0 CDTi 130 unit was still being offered as a range price leader, most sales emphasis these days is put on the two entry-level 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX units, offering either 120 or 140PS.

There's also a less frugal 163PS version and a potent 195PS 2.0 CDTi Biturbo.

In the petrol range, there's also a cheap old-tech engine choice – the 140PS 1.8i unit – but again, more emphasis is being put on the modern turbo powerplant offerings, the 140PS 1.4T, the 170PS 1.6 SIDI and the 250PS 2.0 SIDI. At the top of the range, a 325PS 2.0 V6 continues in the VXR SuperSports model.

This VXR has 4WD but the only other model in the range that gets it is the Country Tourer estate version which, with its raised ride height, aims to offer an SUV alternative.

Outside, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range. That's certainly the feel you get from the front end with its redesigned high-gloss chrome grille and thinner logo bar cradling a prominent Griffin badge and including winglets that link with the sleeker gloss black-trimmed headlights.

## Up-to-date

And inside? Well it feels a great deal more up to date, with many of the previously scattered and confusing little buttons tidied up onto a (sadly optional) central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to audio selections, Bluetooth phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

There's even a slightly cheap-feeling touchpad behind the gearlever that accepts one, two or three finger gestures for the various operating functions – or you can press a button on the steering wheel and activate the whole thing by voice control.

More hi-tech can be viewed through the redesigned three-spoke leather-trimmed steering wheel where you'll find an instrument cluster with another 8-inch high resolution display.

This one, also optional and framed by conventional analogue gauges either side, is primarily there to show a virtual speedometer but can also be configured to display all sorts of information such as smartphone or audio use – or even navigation.

Out back, the hatch most choose offers a 530-litre boot – with 540-litres on offer in the Sports Tourer estate.

In theory, Insignia pricing covers a very wide span – anywhere between £17,000 and £33,000.

In practice, almost all Insignia sales are concentrated in the £17,000 to £22,000 bracket, with most of those going to business buyers who usually want one of the 2.0-litre CDTi diesel variants. Paying much more than that for this car takes it into the BMW 3 Series dominated compact executive saloon bracket where mainstream makers usually struggle.

Talking of saloons, there's a four-door Insignia saloon bodystyle as a no-cost option to the more familiar five-door hatch, but it comes with a much smaller range of trim and engine choices.



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www.cloisters tutoring.co.uk  
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

## elderly & disabled

ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE Bed including headboard, excellent condition £180 ono. 01384 395614.

**LANDEX GAZELLE**  
Mobility scooter, 8mph with 38 mile range, 325 miles on the clock, £3,000 ono.  
Accept 1,500 ono.  
Buyer to collect.  
01543 424912.

MERCURY COLLAPSIBLE mobility scooter, fits in boot, 2 batteries, hardly used, £250. 01902 896531.

**World of Mobility**  
NEW Electric Scooters from only £595  
Second hand from £300

**STAIRLIFTS / ELECTRIC BEDS**  
MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS From £110  
We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products.

Showroom 108C Brettell Lane, Ambicote Stourbridge  
DY8 4BS or call 01384 378252  
OPEN MON-SAT 9-5 pm FREE PARKING AT REAR

**RISER RECLINER** Electric Chair, brand new, never used, Sherbourne Malvern, cost £800, offers, 07842 896813.

**TGA SAONET** Mobility Scooter, as new, 10 months old, only done 7 miles, Malvern, cost £1,500, offers, 07769 596960.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

## 2 Leisure Time

## camping equipment

**CABANON TRAILER** tent, sleeps four, good condition. £1,200. 07791 273943.

**VANGO ICARUS** 4/6 man tent £200. Mobile mains unit £70. Both used once.  
Two burner camping cooker, new £40.  
01902 785765 after 5pm.

## caravans / motorhomes

**ACE SUPREME SUPERSTAR**  
2005, luxury 5 berth, twin axle, L-shape front seating, blow air heating, 3 sunroofs, CD, radio, many extras.  
£6,500.  
01384 826024.

**AVONDALE LEDA MALVERN**  
1994, 6-berth, touring, full awning, £1,000 ono.  
07977 949519.

**FLEETWOOD COLCHESTER SPECIAL 2000.**  
Good condition. SH. 2-berth. End kitchen. Truma mover. Awnings full / porch. Cassette toilet. Heater. Full oven.  
Sale due to ill health.  
£2,300. 01902 339597.



## HIGHLEY PARK HOME

12 month residential site, 2 bed, mains gas, central heating, as new, fabulous views, near to Highley shops, bus service, own driveway.  
£75,000.  
07774 715830.

**LUNAR FREELANDER**, 2007, fixed bed, 4 berth, 21ft. twin wheeler, separate large shower, £7,500.  
07774 715830.

**LUNAR LX**, 2000, 2-berth, end bathroom, motor, awning extras, very good condition, £3,350 ono. 01902 337242. 07831 788954.

**SENATOR WYOMING**  
2008, twin axle, fixed bed, large end bathroom, TV, Hi-Fi, microwave, alarmed, non smokers, no pets, excellent condition, £10,750.  
Telephone 0790 942277 or 01952 608304.

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
Wallerby Herald Gold Mark 2, 32ft x 10ft, 6-berth, little used, like new inside and out, fully equipped, beautifully sited on the lovely Frondey Caravan Park, near Newquay, Wales.  
£10,950.  
Apply to Site Owner Steve Hartley.  
01545 580444 / 07796 135490.

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£10,950.  
Apply to Site Owner Steve Hartley.  
01545 580444 / 07796 135490.

**SWIFT CARISMA** 2005, Two berth motor mover, awning and extras, very good condition, £3,495. 07769 782320.

**TINGDENE MACWORTH SPECIAL PARK HOME** 46 x 22  
In tranquil area of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, easy access off M50.  
Comprises of 3 bedrooms, 1 ensuite, family bathroom, fully fitted kitchen and separate utility, large lounge/diner, fully furnished.  
Property with parking. Sited on pleasant, quiet site with stunning views.  
£135,000 ono.  
Telephone 07411 731777.



## WILLERBY RIO GOLD

2012 model, 28 x 12ft, 2 bed, DG, CH, galvanised chassis and steps, connected to services, TV, aerial fitted, external meter reader, quality caravan in excellent condition, sited at Sand Bay, coastal Somerset Village, Family owned and dog friendly park by the sea.  
Genuine sale.  
Priced to sell £18,650.  
07801 734823, 01934 412680.

**3 BEDROOM STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE**  
£10,995 including site fees for 2015 season.  
SITED AT  
TY MAWR HOLIDAY PARK  
TOWYN, NORTH WALES.  
Perfect for a large family, sleeps 8 people.  
Fantastic live entertainment and facilities including indoor heated swimming pool with flume, multi-sports court, adventure playground, kids club and lots more.  
Call 07946 350132.

**4 BERTH CARAVAN**, 1991  
Marauder 400D, good condition, lightweight, awning and accessories, ideal starter van. £1,300 ono. 07731 861801.

**ERCOL QUALITY** Welsh Dresser, £150 ono. Ercol solid dining table and 4 chairs £120 ono. excellent condition, 01384 395614.

**OAK REFECTORY TABLE** By Old Charm, 6ft x 3ft, immaculate condition, £150 ono.  
01902 424245.

**TWO BLACK LEATHER** Recliner Chairs, as new, £100 each ono. 01384 833839.

**CANNON DOUBLE OVEN** Gas cooker, 60cm wide, 18 months old, very good condition. £200 ono. 01902 670570.

**household appliances**  
CANNON DOUBLE OVEN Gas cooker, 60cm wide, 18 months old, very good condition. £200 ono. 01902 670570.

**in your garden**  
Top Soil, Building Sand, Paving/Concrete Sand, Decorative Gravels  
Delivered Bagged or Loose  
01902 893226

**items for sale**  
HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**items wanted**  
READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**A ABSOLUTELY BEST** price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

**A BEST CASH PRICE**  
FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

**LEAD GUITARIST / KEYBOARDS**  
Wanted for critically acclaimed band, must be dedicated.  
07605 96405.

**RECORDS WANTED**  
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk, Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's Indie.  
Collections bought.  
Music Memorabilia, Promo Posters, autographs, etc, etc.  
Top prices paid.  
Telephone 07966 252439.

**music shop**  
LEAD GUITARIST / KEYBOARDS  
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## what's on

## antique fairs

**ANTIQUE AND COLLECTABLES**  
FAIR Coven Memorial Hall, WY9 5DL Sunday 15 March, 9-3. Karen. 01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

## 3 Home & Services

## antiques

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER  
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester  
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins  
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys  
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver  
• Chinese items • Old Ivory  
• Military items  
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

## furniture

**ANTIQUE BROWN LEATHER 3-PIECE SUITE.**  
Totally unused. Cost £1,000. Can deliver.  
£390.  
07901 661011.

**ERCOL QUALITY** Welsh Dresser, £150 ono. Ercol solid dining table and 4 chairs £120 ono. excellent condition, 01384 395614.

**OAK REFECTORY TABLE** By Old Charm, 6ft x 3ft, immaculate condition, £150 ono.  
01902 424245.

**TWO BLACK LEATHER** Recliner Chairs, as new, £100 each ono. 01384 833839.

**CANNON DOUBLE OVEN** Gas cooker, 60cm wide, 18 months old, very good condition. £200 ono. 01902 670570.

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07605 96405.

**ALL MAMOD STEAM Engines/** Trains wanted all conditions/ descriptions, Dinky Corgi Spot on diecast vehicles. 01902 745598.

**JAKES PRIVATE** Museum wants everything antique, memorabilia, collectables, quirky unusual. 07930 949337 or 01384 484309.

## mobile phones

**IPHONE 6**  
Sealed in original box, latest iPhone 6, 16gb, in white, locked to Vodafone.  
No offers.  
£425.  
07970 936179.

## photography & camcorders

**CONTAX ARIA** 35mm SLR with standard and wide angle zeiss lenses, excellent condition, classic camera, £350. 0121 553 6884.

## t.v. / home entertainment

## service

**AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS**  
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late, 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.  
07850 330251

## specialists at your service

**aerials**  
1 aerial into 2 rooms £90  
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130  
Work Guaranteed Same Day Service  
01902 858191  
01384 429166  
VISA 01543 439095  
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PREMIER ALARMS  
Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

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Super 6  
6 Child Safe Verticals  
Fitted from only £169  
Call 0800 0347111  
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D & T BUILDERS All Building Work Undertaken. Free Quotes.  
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**building services**  
DAVIES & SON BUILDERS. Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways. See us on 'Real People'. Call 01902 579592 / 07837 994465

**carpet & upholstery cleaning**  
A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING  
OAP discount. Recession Prices.  
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10  
Call Paul 07870 341089

**double glazing**  
UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascias, 01922 442720.

**electrical services**  
STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL  
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

**fencing**  
PORTWAY FENCING  
\*SPECIAL OFFER\*  
10 Days of quality fencing  
concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for £695.00  
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93 Portway Rd, Kidderminster, W10 7JZ  
Office: 0121 531 5250  
Mobile: 07866 137656

**garden services**  
For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...  
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING  
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

**house clearances**  
A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. 12 removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

**painters / decorators**  
LOVE 2 WALLPAPER  
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator  
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

**plastering**  
P.D.P. PLASTERING & TILING  
All aspects of plastering & Tiling. reliable, professional service  
Call Peter: 07505662778  
www.pdpplastering.com

**plumbing & heating**  
D S MARSH PLUMBING  
All aspects of plumbing work undertaken. Heating, Gaswork.  
Call Steve: 0796 270745 or Dan: 07807 818730

**roofing**  
PGS Roofing  
All roofing work covered  
Members of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors and Checkatrade Fully insured and Fully Qualified 10 Year Guarantee Free and no obligation quotes.  
ALL ROOFING WORK AND SERVICES UNDERTAKEN.  
Card payments accepted.  
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paul@pgsroofing.co.uk www.pgsroofing.co.uk  
01384 626578 / 07590 844555

**removals**  
A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES  
Single items, Full houses, Offices etc  
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES  
We take the stress away  
40 years experience  
07966 281957

**ABLE REMOVALS**  
Local & Distance Domestic & Commercial Competitive Prices:  
Moves from only £99  
Call 07870 341089

**A & M CHEAP REMOVALS**  
Local Careful Firm Full or Part loads  
Call Don: 0800 587 0377 or 07749 941319

**skip hire**

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## FOR YOUR HOUSE

01902 628060 or 0800 389 6788

Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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properties

- Legal fees paid
- No fees
- Any condition
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossessions stopped

land and commercial enquiries welcome

we can buy  
your house in

# 2 days

**RAMSDENS**  
Property

**WE PAY CASH!**

**SOLD**

**SELL FAST**

- Property investor needs properties in your area
- Cash payments
- We will cover all your fees
- Quicker service

**AND GET A BETTER PRICE**

01922 689023  
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**BC H**

## WE PAY 100% of purchase price

**We buy any house**

**EVERYTIME!**

**WE ALSO BUY LAND**  
commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots...  
*We'll even buy your garden*

Text **GOAL** To 88802 and we will call you back now

**BLACK COUNTRY HOMES**

Call *Star on*  
[www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk](http://www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk)

24 hrs **0800 032 1718** | 24 hrs **01902 628047** **SOLD!**

Freephone Local number

30 YEARS Experience

- We are a family run local business.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors.

**LOOK**  
WE BUY ANY HOUSE

**national homeowners helpline.co.uk**

In a mess?  
talk in confidence  
we can help

**WE PAY MORE**  
ANY AREA  
ANY CONDITION

24/7 **0800 085 6626**  
24/7 **0121 274 0398**

**pink**  
run by women

**sell quick**

- No Fees\*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
- Any area\*
- Repossessions stopped
- Deceased estates

0800 169 1118 call free 24 hours **01384 226087**

**Private Investor**

We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid

Telephone **01922 689023**

straight forward investment solutions

**I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!**

I pay 100% of purchase price

Call now for the best price on your house

- Guaranteed offer\*
- No fees\*
- Any condition
- Terms apply

24 hours Free phone or landline **0800 783 2822**  
**01384 226086**

**Dewmark Homes**  
Part of the PI Group

**STOP WE PAY MORE!**

100% every time\*  
Free Solicitors No Fees\*

Any Property\*  
Any Condition\*

**0800 313 4566**  
**01384 226086**

PI Group \*Subject to terms

**+SICK**  
of trying to sell your house

Call the HOUSE DOCTOR  
Now for the best price

**0800 783 3225**  
**01922 689023**

**A B C D**  
**etter**  
**ash**  
**deal**

It's a simple as that, you get the best deal on your home from **FIRST GENERAL HOMES**

**0121 308 7786**  
**0800 917 1233**

One phone call solves all your problems sell your house now

A guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion, any condition, any circumstances

**01902 628047**  
**0800 633 5226**

**Sell your house**  
We are just a phone call away

- Any circumstances
- Any condition
- No fees - fast completion

**0800 066 5558**  
**0121 274 0398**

Cash paid for your property  
Guaranteed offer\*  
Free solicitors - no fees\*

call us **0800 085 2455**  
**0121 308 7786** 24/7

Aston Wood Properties

the name you can trust  
**Harrison Fowler**

Any property, any condition  
FREE valuation  
FREE solicitors  
No obligation  
No fees  
Fast completion

0800 587 2422 / 01902 628060 24 hours

**STOP! problem property?**

Structural problems, mine shafts, non standard construction, concrete properties, steel properties, rising ground rent, rising lease costs, Japanese Knotweed, subsidence, nothing worries us... we will buy your house whatever the problem no problem!

**0800 783 0008 / 01902 628059**

**I BUY ANY HOUSE**  
**4 CASH**  
**QUICK AND EASY**  
call Alex  
**0800 111 44**  
**01543 499 032**  
Anytime

**STRAIGHT TALK**  
FAST CASH OFFER  
FOR YOUR HOUSE

**0800 500 3109**  
**01902 628060**

**Need Fast Cash?**  
Buying property since 1984

**THE BEST OFFER ON YOUR HOUSE**

**0800 077 8808**  
**01384 226087**

**DON'T DELAY**  
**CALL TODAY**  
for a fast cash offer

**01384 226 087**  
**0800 633 5288**

**NO STRINGS**

Local Investor pays you more

Call any time

**0800 633 5226 / 01922 689023**

**CALL PENNY for TOP PRICES NOW**

- \*Local
- \*Honest
- \*Reliable

**0800 389 6788**  
**01384 226086**

**PICK UP THE PHONE CALL NOW**  
Best Price  
Sam

**01543 499032**  
**0800 500 3109**

**I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE**

Call today for a best price

**0800 731 1160**  
**0121 274 0398**

**6**  
**Property**

**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**BEAUTIFUL TWO BED** house with garage, unfurnished with carpets, Dudley, £550pcm, plus bills. 07886 002704.

**BURROWS CROFT, BILSTON** One bedroom flat deposit / references required, no DSS, no pets, preferred age 45 plus. 07949 641711.

**ONE BED FLAT, Penfields, W-ton.** Unfurnished, double glazed, DSS OK. Call or Text 07754 076795.

**ONE BEDROOM** unfurnished flat, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton. £100pw. 07858 628438.

**THREE BED** semi detached, Stow Heath Lane, new kitchen, DG, £127pw. 07986 439677.

**properties wanted**

**I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE**

\*ANY AREA \*ANY PRICE \*ANY CONDITION\*

CALL PAULA ON  
**01384 467643**

INDEPENDENT \*LOCAL \*CONFIDENTIAL \*

**HOME CASH BUYER**  
WILL PAY 15K MORE  
Complete within 7 days

**Ring Paul, 07870 341089**

**A BETTER CASH DEAL PAID**  
for your property every time.  
01902 628047.

**A LOCAL BUYER** pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

**CALL US FIRST FOR THE TOP PRICE** for your house.  
0800 169 1118.

**DON'T SELL** Before calling me First. Call Richard now: 07756 022973.

**FORGET THE REST** We pay 100% of purchase price always  
0800 085 6626.

**GET THE BEST PRICE** For your house from me now  
0121 308 7786.

**overseas property**

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
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**5**  
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#### MINI COOPER

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**07828 740856.**

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**01902 409769. 07742 019731**

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**ROVER 75 1.8 TURBO** 2003, 53 reg, silver, 3 months MoT, 85,000 miles. £1,000 ono.

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**TOYOTA YARIS 1.3** 2005, 84k, lady owner, MoT Oct 2015, alloys, fsh, excellent condition, fsh, £1,995 ono. 01902 258138 or 07446 012217.

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## 9 Local Information

### public & legal notices

### D.M.B.C - LICENSING ACT 2003.

The STOURBRIDGE ACADEMY ARENA ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED applied on Wednesday 4th March 2015 for the Variation of a Premises Licence for: STOURBRIDGE ACADEMY. Ground Floor, 27-29 Hagley road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 1QH. If granted the application will allow the following variation to take place:

1. Supply of alcohol: Friday & Saturday - 10:00hrs to 05:30hrs
2. Licensable activities: Friday & Saturday - 10:00hrs to 06:00hrs
3. Late Night Refreshment: Friday & Saturday - 23:00hrs to 05:00hrs
4. Variation of layout of premises.
5. Deletion of two conditions.

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to this application may do so by writing to: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Law & Governance, Unit 1, Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 1UF, Tel: 01384-815489. Representations may be made for 28 consecutive days from the date of this application. A copy of the application for the grant of the above licence is kept by Licensing Unit at the above address. The application can be viewed Monday to Friday between 9:30am and 4:30pm - except bank holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

C.N.A. Risk Management  
Dated: 5th March 2015  
Authorised Agent

## 10 Personals

### personal

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## Wolves get to share spoils after home battle

**Wolves 2 Watford 2**  
KENNY Jackett's side, perhaps, deserved more than a point from this high-tempo encounter for the way they dominated much of the game.

But with 10 games to go, this was probably one they needed to win to start eating into that four-point gap to the play-off places.

Jackett deployed the recently under-used James Henry in the No.10 role.

But Henry has the intelligence, subtlety of touch and vision to justify his manager's faith in him and he responded with a man of the match performance.

Benik Afobe gave the home side the perfect start in the 14th minute with his seventh goal in 11 games for his new club, taking his tally to 26 for the season which made him the leading marksman in all four divisions.

Even at £2m, Afobe looks a steal. It's difficult to recall a Wolves striker with the combination of such control, quick feet, pace and movement.

And he showed all those qualities as he effortlessly brought down Kevin McDonald's pass before taking a touch and slotting it past keeper Heurelho Gomes.

Wolves retained the initiative but failed to penetrate. And they found themselves all square again.

Former Walsall striker Troy Deeney's long pass from the left was gobbled up by Matej Vydra and the ex-Albion loanee did the rest.

Jack Price's first senior goal five minutes after the restart gave the home side some reward.

However, Deeney poked home the equaliser.

## Stour club has strong show for action run

STOURBRIDGE Running Club (SRC) had a good turnout for the Action Heart 5k race held recently, with nine runners from the club taking part. First over the line for SRC was David Rose with a time of 33.37.

Grace Allen was not far behind with a time of 37.45.

Meanwhile, at the March Hair Raiser run by Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletic Club, Steven Burch came 28th with a time of 45.07.

Natalie Dellar, fresh from her run at the National Cross Country Championships in London, finished the Wrexham Marathon with an impressive time of 4.34.

Running club colleague Christine Nicholls took part in the half-marathon and despite the poor weather which made the race difficult, she finished with a time of 1.50.

# Cricket club celebrates selection

HALESOWEN cricketers are celebrating selection at county level after a host of successful winter trials.

The club have revealed Yusuf Khan, Elliot Evans, Tom Powell, Alex Jordan, Rhys Evans, Hayden Evans, Charlie Greening, Hassan Akram, Raqeeb Khan, Juhjar Johal, Masharraf Shazad, Deon Patel and Tom Wickstead have been called to their respective Worcestershire County and District age group training squads.

In addition, Tom Duke, Tom Baker, Sam Butt, Jake Ricketts, George Byrne, Mustafa Mumtaz, Arran Singh, Archie Reeves and Nathan Hines have all been selected to represent the North Worcester-

shire District at their respective age groups. Club chairman Richard Evans said: "Once again the club are immensely proud that so many of our lads have been selected to play representative cricket this summer.

"We congratulate them all and a special mention must go to Juhjar, Masharraf and Hayden who have all been selected for the Development of Excellence squads by Worcestershire.

"On behalf of the Club and all parents I would like to thank all of the coaches who continue to give their time freely and selflessly to develop all of our youth players."

Meanwhile the club will be unveiling several new

signings in the near future ahead of the new season with the first and second teams again playing in the Birmingham & District Premier Leagues and the third and fourth teams in the Worcester County League.

The Club hold its AGM on Thursday March 19 and all members, playing and non-playing are urged to attend.

Tickets are selling well for the evening with former World Darts semi-finalist and Sky Sports pundit Wayne Mardle on Wednesday April 29 which will be hosted by Mardle's commenting colleague Nigel Pearson.

Tickets are available from sportstalkvents.co.uk.

# Glassboys blown out by Spartans

**STOURBRIDGE 0 Blyth Spartans 3**

Stourbridge were blown apart by impressive FA Cup heroes Blyth Spartans who should have won by a wider margin.

The Glassboys were given a wake-up call straight from the kick-off when top marksman Rob Dale got behind their defence and then squared the ball across the face of an open goal, but nobody was on hand to take advantage.

Stourbridge tried to hit back, Leon Broadhurst's wicked inswinging corner finishing up the wrong side of the post while Kayelden Brown was denied when Spartans goalkeeper Nick Thomson saved bravely at his feet when clean through on goal.

But Spartans steadily assumed command of midfield and should have scored on 14 minutes when the dangerous Danny Maguire was brought down by goalkeeper Dean Coleman but Dale's resulting penalty was ballooned so high over the crossbar it finished closer to the tea bar.

It was only a short stay of execution for Stourbridge as Spartans took the lead on 22 minutes when Steve Turnbull curled a superbly taken free kick around the defensive wall and into the net with Coleman rooted at the opposite post.

### Stranded

Spartans should have added further goals, especially when Jarrett Rivers fired straight at Coleman on the half hour and then Maguire lobbed the ball just over the crossbar with Coleman stranded.

Maguire then had a goal ruled out for offside on 49 before Rivers effectively wrapped up the result with a second goal on 52 minutes when he beat Coleman with a fierce shot at the near post.

Stourbridge could have clawed a goal back on 71 minutes when Junior Smikle had a shot cleared off the line by defender Matt Wade following a well worked free kick routine.

Spartans duly added a third goal on 81 minutes when substitute striker Danny Hawkins was sent racing clear to shot past Coleman.

It now means Stourbridge have gone eight games without a win.

**Stourbridge:** Coleman; Smikle, Canavan, Williams, Richards (Morgan-Parker 58), Miles, Connelly, Broadhurst (Fitzpatrick 72), Benbow, Lait (Quaynor 72), Brown.

**Subs not used:** Hales, Wint

## Penalty point seals DK's fate



Luke Greenwood scores DK's first try late in the game against Longton

### DK 12 Longton 31

DK kicked off and through good play established themselves in the Longton half for the first quarter of the game.

In the second quarter Longton came more into the game and were able to score two tries.

The first try came from an extra man in the line allowing full back Luke Fowles to run in. Their second try came from right wing

Liam Price. After a few minutes of the second half, DK forced Longton to mishandle and James Jefferson skipped in for a try, only to turn round and find the referee penalising DK for offside.

Luke Fowles added another try, which took the score to 0-26, giving Longton the bonus point that relegated DK.

Then, true to recent form, a late revival, Luke Greenwood dived

over the line following a driving maul.

From a dropped ball Mark Cartwright was on hand to touch down. Jamie Hearn added the extras.

To finish the scoring Liam Price made it a brace when he ran in unopposed in the last minute to make the score. Two playersworthy of special mention are Jefferson and Luke Greenwood

## Dogged Blues battle on to grab a share of the spoils

**Derby County 2 Blues 2**  
BIRMINGHAM manager Gary Rowett saluted his side's never-say-die attitude after they grabbed a dramatic point at Championship title hopefuls Derby.

Blues were seemingly heading for defeat as the clocked ticked past 90 minutes but two stoppage time strikes from Paul Caddis and Clayton Donaldson earned them a share of the spoils.

The home fans were cheering after 20 minutes when Ward pounced at the back post after a Johnny Russell shot had been parried by Darren Randolph.

Derby were in total control when Ince cut inside and fired low into the right corner in the 48th minute but the game took a dramatic and unexpected twist in added time.

First Tom Ince tripped Robert Tesche to give away a penalty, which Caddis drove past Lee Grant, and then Wesley Thomas hooked back a corner and Rob Kiernan's header struck Donaldson's shoulder and rolled in.

Rowett admitted: "It looked to all intents and purposes that the game was over but I just felt there were little moments in the last 15 minutes when you could see there might be something for us.

"Whether we deserved it or not is not really relevant, the fact is we've kept going and kept believing and trying to get something out of the game.

"As we all know, until the game is all over it's not over."

It was a happy ending for Rowett who was involved in a heated exchange on the touchline with Derby players at the end of the first half after he was angered by Johnny Russell.

## Anslow brace puts game out of Hayes' reach

**Lye Town 3 Heath Hayes 1**

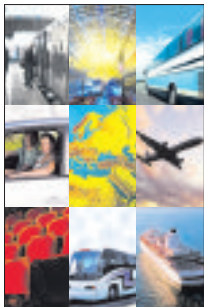
HEATH Hayes's mini-revival came to an end when they visited third-placed Lye Town.

Hayes were forced into playing outfield player Luke Farley in goal due to a goalkeeping crisis with three injured.

Ricky Anslow volleyed a great goal to put Lye one up on 25 minutes and a second followed when Anslow latched onto a through-ball from Ben Jevons.

In the second half Lye used the slope to their advantage putting the Hayes defence on the back foot.

On 70 mins Lye made it 3-0 with a penalty which was dispatched by Damian Whitcombe who five minutes later was sent off when he was deemed to have committed deliberate hand ball giving Dan Scragg the chance to pull a goal back for Hayes.



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# Sport

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## Reanne on the road to play Crucible

IT'S a long way from Baggeridge Social Club to the Crucible.

But Reanne Evans is well on the road to Sheffield – and is hoping to make history as the first woman to take part in the snooker World Championships.

Not that Reanne is new to global exposure in the sport.

As women's world champion for 10 years running and the first woman to take part in the final stages of a world ranking event, Reanne Evans is used to breaking down barriers.

The 29-year-old from Dudley has been invited to play in the qualifying rounds of the tournament, with the carrot of massive TV exposure if she makes it to the finals proper.

Practising at Baggeridge and Sedgley Ex-Servicemen's Club, mother-of-one Reanne first found fame when she was one of two West Midlands amateurs to represent Britain at the European Team Championships in Latvia in 2004.

The former Bishop Milner School business studies student then went on to defend her world championship title while pregnant, admitting: "My bump made things a bit difficult on certain shots but I was very pleased with the way I performed."

While used to attention from the media, nothing has prepared her for the excitement and support she has received since announcing she would compete in the qualifying rounds of the World Championship, which will be held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, from April 8-15.

She said: "It's been very manic. From the moment the announcement went out the phone didn't stop. I had to charge my phone three times."

Reanne will need to win three matches to get through the qualifying stage.

## Pedmore take the game away from Enville batsmen

**Pedmore (134-4) beat Enville A (119-3) by 15 runs**

Enville won the toss and invited Pedmore to bat. When Dave Skelding was run out in the second over the decision looked justified.

Then the Pedmore batsmen took over. Dan Jones smashed 25 in two overs to retire. Enville fielders had retreated to try and stem the onslaught so Matt Porter and Sam Peruzzo used the angles and corners to take easy threes.

Both retired, and wickets were sacrificed to get the retired batsmen back and the runs continued to accrue.

Pedmore set a very challenging but not impossible task for Enville to chase, the key would be a good start and the openers provided just that.

Greg Tomkins took 21 from Sam Peruzzo's first over to retire in the second over. Matt Branch (30n) continued the good work with excellent running between wickets and with retirements Enville got to 110 in the 11th over.

Oldswinford (115-2) beat Pedmore B (78-5) by 37 runs

In a friendly match Oldswinford were a little too strong for Pedmore.

## This is my dream job, says Clegg

MAX Clegg says he has landed the dream job as Cradley skipper for the new season.

Clegg will lead the Heathens into action at Birmingham next Wednesday, March 18, in the first leg of the Travel Plus Challenge.

Clegg, who will be riding for the Heathens for the third consecutive season in 2015, says he can't wait to get going and is predicting another 'amazing year' for the side.

"It's been my dream ever since I started with Cradley to become their number one and to be captain as well is a pleasure knowing that I can be such a big part of the club," he said.

### Speedway

"If I could guide the club to a hat-trick of league titles in my first year as number one and captain, that would be such a big thing and such an amazing achievement – it would be heaven for me."

"All of the teams have got really strong heat-leaders but I think the reserves and the riders in the lower part of the team are going to be key."

"I think Mike (Neale) will have a good year and there's a lot of expectations from Ellis (Perks) – they will give it their best but if they do what we

know they can do, then I don't think anything's going to stop Cradley again this year."

The young Yorkshireman, who turns 18 next month, feels he has been handed the 'ultimate reward' following his excellent run of form from the second half of the 2014 campaign.

He is also hoping that he can use his own previous memories to make him the perfect skipper. Clegg said: "I remember when I started at reserve, Lewis (Blackbird) and Ash (Morris) were brilliant with me and then Starkey (Paul Starke) was excellent last year."

"I think if I can help the boys this year like they all helped me then we're in for a good season."

# STOUR ALLOW LEAD TO SLIP

**Sedgley Park 43 Stourbridge 23**  
**PLAYING into the wind first up, Stour played some enterprising rugby and were well worth their half time lead.**

They held on to it until the hour mark when the introduction of hosts' replacement outside half Steve Collins proved decisive as the tempo went up and the ball was moved wide, Stour getting blown away as they shipped five tries.

A first try for replacement Tom Mitchell was scant consolation for Stour, and with just five games remaining they saw their safety margin eroded further by clubs below them in the National 2 North table. While relegation remains unlikely it is not yet an impossibility.

The hosts were awarded a penalty for a scrum misdemeanour that they kicked to the Stour 22, after a set of drives a tackler slipped off No.8 Matt Lamprey who profited by scoring the opening try.

After an exchange of penalty goals Coalan Ryan's quick throw in to the alert Ciaran Moore set up an attack that looked to have put winger Gary Dipple free down the left touchline but a pass was called forward.

### Rewarded

The hosts kicked the ball deep into Stour's 22 but fullback Tom Jarvis countered, Jacob Nash's chip ahead rewarded when chasing flanker Eji Uzoigwe beat the defenders to the bouncing ball. With attackers queueing up wide left prop Mark George fed the ball to Dipple who outgassed the

defenders to score in the corner. A penalty award at a scrum was taken quickly by Nash, Ryan's kick & Dipple's chase forcing a Stour lineup in Park's 22.

Ben Hughes was hauled down just short of the line, setting up a drive by Chris Depper who managed to ground the ball on the tryline. Ryan converted, half time 10-15.

With Park on the attack in the Stour 22 a loose pass was picked off by captain Nigel Mukarati.

He found Stef Shillingford on his shoulder who reached the Park 22 before finding Dipple to his left.

The cover got to him though and the scoring opportunity was killed by prop Max Ashcroft's



Flanker Eji Uzoigwe leads an attack for Stourbridge against Sedgley Park

side-entry that earned him a yellow card, Ryan slotting a straightforward penalty goal.

A mistake in the Stour defences allowed centre Matt Riley to score unchallenged.

Park worked an overlap down the right touchline, the ball was fed back in to support runners and with the defences stretched prop Ben Black rumbled over from short range.

Park were gifted possession from an over-cooked lineup throw, they stormed through the gaps in a misaligned defence and were awarded a penalty deep in Stour's 22 that they kicked for the corner.

They set a Maul and managed to drive it over the line for Lamprey to bag his second try. Stour

again secured possession briefly but again had to kick it away. The hosts countered from deep and a neat offload by Lamprey put replacement Liam West in to score.

Realising that a 4-try bonus point was all they could now salvage from the game, Stour tapped & ran a penalty award in their own half. Dipple worked a gap in the defences, linking with Mitchell who scored.

They tried to repeat the exercise but an isolated ball carrier got turned over, Riley chipped over the defenders and regathered a kind bounce to score the final try. Full time 43-23.

On Saturday Stour are at home and will be hoping to do the double over Birmingham-Solihull.

## First string Carl backs Kuszczak

TOMASZ Kuszczak has been backed to continue his heroics for Wolves – by the man who wants to replace him.

First-choice keeper Carl Ikeme is three weeks away from returning to full training as he recovers from a broken bone in his foot.

Ikeme will be looking to get his place back when he is fully fit but he has been impressed with the way former Albion and Manchester United shotstopper Kuszczak has performed in the meantime.

Wolves have won four, lost three and drew one in the eight games the Poland international has played, with three clean sheets and nine goals conceded.

Kuszczak's debut in the 2-1 home defeat against Reading on February 7 was his first game since leaving Brighton in May to make after training with League One side Oldham for three months before joining Wolves in November.

The experienced 32-year-old, who made 84 League appearances for the Seagulls - Wolves opponents this Saturday - quickly settled in and has looked a safe pair of hands.

But that has come as no surprise to Ikeme.

"He's done really well what he's had to do he's done really well," said Ikeme.

"But it's no surprise to me because I've been training with him for three months and I've played against him a few times as well so I know he's a great keeper."

"We've always had good keepers here and that's the case now with Tomasz, 'Azzer' (Aaron McCarey) and young Flatty (Jon Platt) so it's all good competition."

"When I come back I'll be back in the mix again."

## Williamson is eager to start new season

CRADLEY Heathens star Matt Williamson is counting down the days in eagerness for the new season to start.

Williamson, who came through a successful practice session at Peterborough on Saturday, confirmed he is feeling fit and ready for the new season which is just over a week away.

He said: "I was the first to admit the end of last season was tough for me for a number of reasons, but after spending time back on a bike over the past few weeks I can't wait to go racing again."

"I feel fit and keen to impress everyone this season and want to improve again on what I achieved last season, both personally and hopefully with Cradley."

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Medium	Large
£7.99	£9.99

Collection only. Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra

### the WEEKDAY special

ANY CLASSIC CRUST PIZZA\*  
+ GARLIC PIZZA BREAD  
+ COLESLAW

Medium	Large
£11.99	£13.99

Mon-Thurs only. Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra

### the SAVER deal

ANY CLASSIC CRUST PIZZA\*  
+ 1 SUMPTUOUS SIDE  
+ 1 ANY SIDE

SMALL	LARGE	MEDIUM
£12.99	£17.99	£15.99

Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra. Any side excludes combos and 14/21 chicken portions.

### the SECOND PIZZA deal

BUY ONE PIZZA\*  
GET A 2ND FOR

**£5**

First pizza at regular menu price. Second pizza of equal or lesser value.

### the ONLINE deal

**33% OFF**  
WHEN YOU SPEND £30 OR MORE  
ONLINE AT WWW.DOMINOS.CO.UK  
CODE: TTKSTVSN

Discount applies at regular menu price. Excludes ice creams and 14/21 chicken portions

### the FAMILY feast

ANY 2 PIZZAS\*  
+ GARLIC PIZZA BREAD + POTATO  
WEDGES + BOTTLE OF DRINK

Medium	Large
£21.99	£24.99

Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra